Hafa Adai!

'Wet towels, bandanas, dust masks don't help with smoke.' PAGE 2
Tents have become the new homes for families. PAGE 3

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Saipan Tribune

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4 schools still in double sessions

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, far right, along with Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police executive director superintendent Carl McLennan, second left, carries the memorial wreath during the Law Enforcement memorial service yesterday at Department of Public Safety central office in Susupe.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

» PSS gets OIA funds for school repairs

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nearly seven months after Super Typhoon Yutu's onslaught in late October 2018, four public school remain on double sessions, according to the Public School System.

Acting Education commissioner Lynnette Villagomez said the schools remaining on double sessions include Oleai Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, and the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School.

"They will remain in double sessions for the remainder of the school year," she noted. "While we are waiting for

See 4 SCHOOLS on Page 4

'Today we recognize the fallen'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The various law enforcement divisions in the CNMI came together yesterday to remember those who died in service and to celebrate those who still remain.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero said yesterday was the day to recognize the fallen and to appreciate those who still serve the community.

"Today is a day to remember our fallen, for one, and also to give appreciation to our police officers. Show them we appreciate them, show them we work as a team, and we can't do it if we don't work as a team," he said.

See TODAY on Page 4

Still no takers for air carrier service incentive program

» But Toves says interested US flag airline to visit CNMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Toves

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board's airport facilities committee chair Barrie C. Toves is frustrated that despite CPA's adoption last year of an air carrier incentive program,

See STILL on Page 4

Explorer recounts making deepest ocean dive in history

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

> [The] discovery of plastic in the deepest part of the ocean is disturbing but not surprising...

NEW YORK (AP)—Taking the hours-long journey to what is believed to be the deepest point mankind has visited in any ocean was a complicated one, and for Victor Vescovo, it meant being constantly on the alert as he monitored his state-of-the-art vessel.

But when he reached 10,928

See EXPLORER on Page 4

In this photo provided by Atlantic Productions for Discovery Channel, Victor Vescovo emerges from his submersible 'Limiting Factor' after a successful dive to the deepest known point in the Mariana Trench, April 28, 2019.

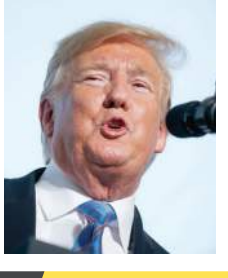
AP

INSIDE

LOCAL

Since opening in 1996, the Furusato restaurant in Garapan has always stayed true to its Japanese roots.

PAGE 6



NATION

International worries that the Trump administration is sliding toward war with Iran flared into the open Tuesday.

PAGE 16

ENVIRONMENT

Marine biologists in Australia and the United States are joining forces to resuscitate two of the world's major coral reef systems.

PAGE 19

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Local

'Wet towels, bandanas, dust masks don't help with smoke'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. yesterday advised the public that wet towels, bandanas, and even dust masks are of little help when it comes to dealing with complications from wildfire smoke.

The corporation, in reaction to a string of wildfire smoke on Mt. Tapochau, noted that wildfire smoke can be the root of several respiratory problems with severities that vary depending on age.

"…This is a good time to remind the public of the risk of wildfire smoke to your health," CHCC medical director of public health Dr. Phuong Luu said in a statement, adding that towels, bandanas, and dust masks barely helps with wildfire smoke.

"…[They] can stop the large particles, but not the fine, small ones that can get into the lungs and cause irritation," the statement continued.

The corporation noted that possible complications from wildfire smoke exposure can cause watery or dry eyes; coughing; wheezing; scratchy throat; headaches; shortness of breath; irregular heartbeat; chest pains; and even asthma or lung irritations.

"Wildfire smoke is a combination of gases and fine particles from the trees and other plant materials that burned," the corporation warned. "The smoke can irritate your eyes, nose, and make your lungs and heart conditions much worse. The amount and length of exposure to the smoke, as well as your age and medical conditions, will dictate how at risk you are of complications from the wildfire smoke," the announcement continued.

According to the corporation, exposure to wildfire smoke can worsen symptoms to those who have lung and heart conditions and those who are sensitive to air pollution, including people with asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; people with heart disease; elderly people; infants and children; pregnant women; and even long-time smokers.

The corporation highly recommends to seek medical attention from a doctor or head to the CHCC emergency department if you are experiencing any symptoms related to wildfire smoke exposure.

CHCC further recommends to stay indoors as much as possible if you have consistent access to air conditioning; using a high efficiency air-cleaning filter if available; avoid vacuuming; set car air conditioning settings to recirculate while driving; drink water to help with scratchy throats and coughing; and to move away from the area of the smoke especially if you have an underlying lung or heart disease that can worsen with smoke exposure.

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GO WELL

Tents have become the new homes for families

By REICA RAMIREZ
reicajramirez@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Editor's Note: This is part of a continuing series of articles where Saipan Tribune *examines the continuing impact of Super Typhoon Yutu, more than six months since it hit Saipan and Tinian in October 2018.*

Nearly seven months after Super Typhoon Yutu destroyed the islands of Saipan and Tinian, many families are still recovering. Some still live in temporary tents that have become their "new home."

A 41-year old Filipino-Chamorro mother, who asked for anonymity, remains hopeful even if her family still lives in a tent provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Her family is patiently waiting for FEMA's Permanent Housing Construction, or PHC, program to begin.

She recalled her experiences from the typhoon. Her family was prepared with boarded windows and doors. However, when the typhoon arrived, the kitchen roof fell and the garage was completely blown apart. Soon the plywood boards broke apart and the windows were shattered.

Because her house is situated near a wetland, her house was flooded.

"We were stuck inside our flooded house, so my family was soaking wet," she said.

After the typhoon, her house was infested with mosquitoes, mold, and termites. Her family also had to throw away most of their personal belongings that were damaged.

"The living situation is difficult. I have five kids and [elderly] parents to take care. Since we live near the roads with power poles being fixed, my house had no power for the past two days," she said.

Her children struggle sleeping inside the tents, especially with the extreme heat. They also depend on bottles of insect repellent to get through the night.

Her family had no other options. A month after Super Typhoon Yutu, her father had an aneurysm heart attack. Now, he is forced to use a wheelchair because he struggles to walk.

Her mom tried to find a new place to live while they wait for FEMA's PHC program to start. Unfortunately, the places weren't suitable and safe for her father to live in. She said, "There wasn't a lot of affordable ground floor houses for my father to safely live in. Since we have a tent, we just stayed."

Despite all the struggles, she tries to adjust to her new environment. She remains hopeful that her house will be fixed in the next few months.

The "house" of the mother featured in the story.
REICA RAMIREZ

MIFICPA seminar on May 25

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants will be conducting its "Leadership Values & Management Accounting Seminar" on May 25 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The seminar, which will be from 8am to 12pm, will be conducted by Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio "Eli" Arago.

It will focus on the following topics:

- Leadership values and practices
- Management accounting
- Variance analysis
- Feasibility study and others

Registration fee for members is $15, inclusive of snacks and certificate of attendance. Non-members and non-accountants are also welcome for the same fee. Registration starts at 7:30am.

To facilitate the question-and-answer portion of the seminar, you can pre-register and turn in your question(s) ahead of time through the organizers below.

For reservation and more details, email: Angie Mamaril (angiehmamaril@yahoo.com), Noemi Catigan (noemi_catigan@fiestasaipan.com), Deo Manese (djmanese @gmail.com), Paul Saniel (paulangelosaniel@hotmail.com), Ronnel Calma (rcalmal@jzgroupinc.com), Jimaela Ham (jvham888@gmail.com). ***(PR)***

Hillbroom says Lujan displayed obstructive conduct during deposition

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Junior Larry Hillbroom has requested the federal court to compel his former lawyer, David J. Lujan, to resume his deposition on Saipan as Lujan allegedly displayed obstructive conduct and improperly left during the first deposition.

Deposition refers to the taking of testimony of a witness outside of court.

Hillbroom, through counsel Mark B. Hanson, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order Lujan to stop obstructing the taking of his deposition and refrain from improper unethical behavior in the deposition.

Hillbroom requested the court to order Lujan to pay him for the expense his bad faith, abusive, and obstructive conduct has caused, including travel costs, lodging, attorneys' fees, and other costs wasted because of Lujan's improper departure from his deposition.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona last Tuesday ordered Lujan to file his opposition, if any, to Hillbroom's motion by Monday, May 20.

Hanson said pursuant to the parties' agreement, Lujan's deposition commenced in Guam last Monday at 9am.

Hanson said Lujan appeared together with his "paralegal" who had defendant atty. Barry J. Israel on the phone.

Hanson said he and Nelson Werner, co-counsel for Hillbroom, were present.

Hillbroom listened in by phone for the entire morning session of the deposition. Werner was conducting the deposition.

Hanson said toward the end of the first day, Werner presented Lujan with the first document exhibit—the J.L.H. Trust Agreement.

Hanson said despite Werner not asking Lujan any substantive questions about the exhibit itself, Lujan insisted on silently reading each page of the document before he would answer any further questions.

Hanson said it was clear that Lujan intended to delay the deposition by insisting on reading the entirety of the large exhibit at the deposition table before continuing with his deposition even there was no question pending that required such an exercise.

Hanson said while Lujan prior to that point in the deposition used profanity toward Hillbroom's counsel and called him (Hanson) bad word a few times, it was at this point that Lujan's intent to interfere, delay, and frustrate Hillbroom's efforts to take his deposition took shape.

Hanson said in order to resolve the apparent dispute, counsel asked Lujan to meet and confer regarding his position on reading the entirety of an exhibit before agreeing to be questioned further.

He said Lujan refused to confer, objecting to his (Hanson) "asking him questions at the deposition."

Hanson said when the deposition recommenced last Tuesday morning, Lujan was 15 minutes late and continued with his obstructive conduct, insisting that Hanson "should just shut up."

Hanson said Lujan quickly ended his participation in the deposition, stating that he intended to file a motion with the U.S. District Court in Guam sometime later this week.

Hanson said the grounds for which are unknown because Lujan again refused to confer, stating that he would do so later in the week by telephone.

He said after Lujan left, Werner made his record and the deposition was suspended.

Manglona recently found that Lujan violated Model Rules of Professional Conduct when he engaged in telephone conversations with Hillbroom and taped such conversations.

Manglona prohibited Lujan from making any contact with Hillbroom absent a written consent from Hillbroom's counsel.

Manglona granted Hillbroom's request that defendants Lujan and Israel pay their attorney's fees in the amount of $11,750 for the costs of replying to defendants' motion to dismiss Hillbroom's lawsuit.

In his lawsuit, Hillbroom alleged that Israel and Lujan conspired with former trustee Keith Waibel to inflate the attorneys' contingency fee when the fortune of the late business tycoon and DHL co-founder Larry Hillblom was still undergoing probate proceedings in the Superior Court.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of Hillbroom. His name is spelled differently from that of Hillblom.

Hillblom died in a seaplane crash off Anatahan waters on May 21, 1995. His body was never recovered.

4 SCHOOLS

From Page 1

the buildings without roofs to be hardened, we are going to be receiving additional tents for these schools so that they can have temporary structures they can move into… to move into full-day sessions," she continued.

Villagomez assured that all students eligible for graduation would be graduating on time—including those on double sessions.

"We extended the school day for them [so that] they have more hours instead of starting school early and ending at 2:30pm," she said.

PSS also said it was successfully awarded $1 million in disaster-response money from a federal office in preparation for the upcoming school year 2019-2020.

Villagomez, in an interview, confirmed that the Office of Insular Affairs was able to award PSS with $1 million in grant money for school repairs that she noted would be used in preparation for the upcoming school year.

"...We need to follow the timeline of the Federal Emergency Management Agency so that we can make permanent repairs to our schools," she said.

She noted that coordinating with FEMA allowed for the reinforcement of school campuses, including harder roofs; sturdier walls; and more.

"Following the FEMA schedule is critical so that we are eligible and [keep] the opportunity to use funds that are available [for repairs]," she said.

EXPLORER

From Page 1

meters into the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench of the Pacific Ocean, Vescovo took the advice of the man whose record he just broke—Oscar-winning director James Cameron—and took 15 uninterrupted minutes to take in the view and the enormity of the moment.

Cameron told him he'd be busy, of course, but noted that "few if any people have seen what you've seen" so "deeply appreciate how fortunate you are to see it,'" Vescovo recalled in an interview.

Last month's groundbreaking mission was filmed as part of an upcoming Discovery Channel documentary series that will chronicle Vescovo's trips to the furthest parts of the world's waters—the Atlantic Ocean, the Southern Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Arctic Ocean. He has done all except the Arctic plunge, which is set for the fall.

The entire journey took nearly 12 hours—four hours to descend, four hours spent at the bottom, and then about four hours to ascend again. Vescovo, a businessman and amateur pilot who has also traversed the highest mountain peaks, including Mount Everest, said the goal of the expedition was not to best Cameron's mark in the ocean, but to go to areas of the waters that were unexplored.

"I was stunned to discover when I did my research that of the five oceans, four had never had a visitation to their bottoms," he said. "I thought it was about time that someone actually did that."

For his journey, Vescovo traveled in a vessel called the SDV Limiting Factor, a titanium craft that is billed as the "ultimate submersible" and the only one able to travel to such depths. It was outfitted with high definition cameras that documented everything, including creatures unknown to man.

"There've been numerous new species thought found on this expedition. The scientific group is thrilled with the things that have been brought back for additional analysis. It's really great," he said.

He saw a very unusual jellyfish in the Indian Ocean but there was also an unsettling find—trash, particularly plastic, in the deepest part of the water.

The discovery of plastic in such far reaches proves the need for more vigilance to protect the oceans, said Andy Sharpless, CEO of Oceana, which describes itself as the largest worldwide group in the world with the goal of saving the oceans.

"Vescovo's discovery of plastic in the deepest part of the ocean is disturbing but not surprising because plastic is found throughout the water column in our oceans," he said in a statement. "That's why it can't be easily 'cleaned up.' We need to focus on reducing the use and production of plastic in order to really protect our seas from plastic."

Patrick Lahey of Triton Submarines, which made the vessel that transported Vescovo and also followed Vescovo's dives to the Challenger Deep, said the missions show why more exploration of the oceans are critical for science's benefit.

"These are large swaths of the oceans that we've never seen that really we know virtually nothing about. I think it's important for us as human beings to study these areas," said Lahey.

"The ocean is the life force of our planet. I think this is a great opportunity for us to learn more about it and to try to use this tool that we've developed for that purpose."

TODAY

From Page 1

In his speech, Guerrero said that law enforcement officers, both living and that have passed, committed their lives to a honorable and noble cause which is to follow a higher standard of integrity, honesty, and conduct.

"You have volunteered to protect our community, its citizens, and those unable to protect themselves. You volunteered every day to run toward danger, to the sound of gunfire, when everyone else runs away from it. You hold your ground in defense of others so they are able to live safely," he said. "Those men and women who have carried the cause of justice to their grave deserve not only our respect, but our heartfelt gratitude," he added.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres also shared a heartfelt story about his grandfather who served as a police officer for 28 years. In his story, he reminisced about the stories his grandfather would tell about the heroic acts police officers perform on a daily basis without recognition.

"Officers don't decide who to attend to first or whether to attend to it or not, when calls are made, you go and attend it and your life is always in jeopardy. Today I want to thank you for your continued dedication, and to all those officers who have gone before us. Your memory to the department will never end. All you officers, thank you for putting your life and sharing your memories and protecting the pride of the CNMI," he said.

During the ceremony, a beautiful tree sapling was planted by law enforcement officers in memory of the fallen.

According to DPS, the saplings will grow to blossom beautiful flowers and benches will be contracted around it for family members of the fallen to visit and sit around as they reminisce about the loved ones they have lost in the force.

Law enforcement divisions recognized yesterday were DPS, Department of Correction, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Commonwealth Casino Commission, Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control, Customs and Border Patrol, Fish and Wildlife, and Marshall services.

In attendance, also, was Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police executive director super intendant Carl McLennan.

McLennan, who was on island for a conference, paid his respects by partaking in the festivities.

STILL

From Page 1

which aims to attract new airlines to the CNMI, there is still no takers.

In an interview during CPA board's meeting last Friday, Toves said they adopted the air carrier incentive program allowing new airlines to come and avail of 75-percent discount of the airport tariffs during the first year of operation and 50-percent discount during the second year.

Toves said he was disappointed when CPA's comptroller informed the airport facilities committee last Thursday that there is still no takers with the air carrier incentive program.

Toves, however, is very optimistic that a new airline will avail of the program as he hinted that there is an interest from the U.S. mainland.

The five-year air carrier incentive program, which was adopted by the CPA board in September 2018, aims to promote competition, attract new airlines, and increase scheduled direct passenger service to unserved and underserved destinations.

The program is available from Sept. 1, 2018 through Aug. 31, 2023 to all airlines that meet the program requirements.

According to CPA, each eligible air carrier is limited to a one- or two-year incentive period. It has three categories which an airline can quality: new service to unserved destinations, new entrant carrier, and added flights to specific destinations.

Toves said a U.S. flag airline is expected to come in two weeks because they have requested information about CNMI's airport facilities in their interest to operate between Saipan, Rota, and Guam.

"They want to see the facilities, the terminal and the runway and want to meet the CPA management," he said.

Toves said Senate President Victor Hocog (R-Rota) is responsible for giving them information about this interested airline.

He did not divulge the airline, citing that they are still in negotiations.

"We hope that they take the bait and avail of the air carrier incentive program," Toves said.

He said the interested airline want to see the facilities and then from there develop their program, but the initial plan is to fly Saipan, Rota, and Guam.

"I am very much in support of that endeavor," Toves said, adding that his concern is to have the airline contribute to enhancing and improving the interisland service.

He said if the business proposal is to operate a helicopter service or skydiving or any activities that do not contribute to interisland service, he is hesitant to support it.

"I am sure everyone understands why because I am trying to address the issue of the interisland," he said.

Toves said interisland service has been a long-standing issue that is very huge challenge for Rota.

"Since we lost Cape Air, since we lost Freedom Air, we are in the red now. That's the reason I'm very frustrated," he said.

Toves said CPA's focus should get new airlines to come in.

CPA to replace all fences around Saipan airport

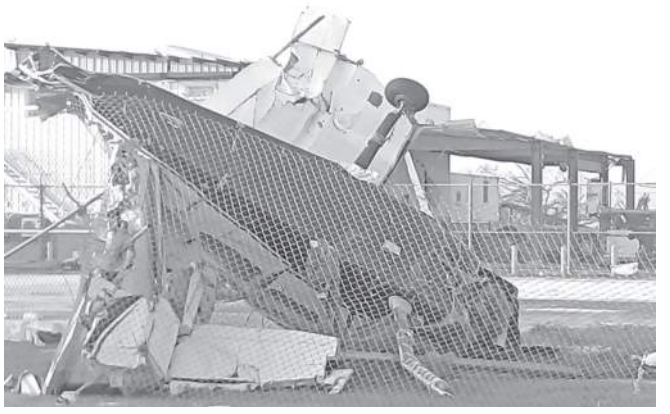
By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is planning to replace all fences around the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport after approximately 30 percent of its perimeter fence collapsed during Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation.

CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio informed the CPA board last Friday that a temporary fence was erected and that they are putting together a request for proposals to replace all the fences around the airport including the perimeter.

In his updated report about Yutu's damage, Tenorio said the fence will be included around the overnight parking lot, water tank and pump station, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) station, ARFF training facility, generator building, water catchment near United Cargo, and the waste water treatment plant.

With respect to the damage at the Pacific Region ARFF training center, the executive director said there was a major damage to the training center building, including at the waste water treatment plant, water tanks, fuel spill trainer, and surrounding areas.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

In this file photo, powerful winds brought by Super Typhoon Yutu dragged and slammed this small aircraft into the fence at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The Commonwealth Ports Authority is planning to replace all fences at the airport.

He said ARFF mechanics are doing minor repairs, but major damage are going to be addressed through the request for proposals process and through specialized contractors for the technical systems.

As to the damage at the international terminal, Tenorio said debris has all been removed, while broken windows are currently being repaired/replaced.

He said the smoking area in the departure holding rooms is being repaired and all doors have been secured and are being addressed.

Tenorio said walls that have collapsed in the terminal have been replaced, and damaged air-condition units are being replaced.

Tenorio also said last Friday that airport has now 70 percent recovered from Yutu's devastation last Oct. 24 and 25, but the damage to the infrastructure and facilities caused CPA to spend $2.6 million so far.

Tenorio also disclosed that the insurance company has given CPA $5 million in property insurance to start addressing the damaged property and that an additional $10 million will be forthcoming.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMPASI closed on Thursday

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc (NMPASI) will be closed today, May 16, for Professional Development. They will resume regular business hours on Friday, May 17.

ChaCha Ocean View to release progress reports

ChaCha Ocean View Middle School will be distributing your child's 4th quarter Mid-Progress Report this Thursday, May 16, 2019, from 4pm to 6pm in your child's homeroom. Call the school at 664-4102 if you have any question or concerns ***(PR)***

Taste of the Marianas this Saturday

The 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden will be held every Saturday in May at American Memorial Park beginning at 6pm. This Saturday, May 18, six contenders will take on a mystery celebrity food fighter in the J's Fried Rice Eating Contest at 7pm.

Entertainment will include Unshakable, Rod Gibson (Australia), Anna Glushko, CNMI Takewondo, Man Antigu, Alania, and Baraha Band. ***(PR)***

GCC offers free Construction Boot Camp

The Guam Community College is offering a free Construction Boot Camp for the first 25 registrants. The six-week training cycle will begin on May 20 through July 2, 2019, from 8am to 4 pm at the GCC campus.

The Future Builders of Guam—Construction Boot Camp will focus on carpentry, welding, electrical, basic blueprint reading, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning. Participants will be eligible to earn nationally recognized certifications in these areas and be able to earn a National Career Readiness Certification, OSHA-10 Certificate, and CPR/Basic First Aid.

You must be a high school graduate or have your GED in addition to having your health clearance to be eligible. Seats are limited, so hurry and register today. For more information, contact Pilar Williams at (671) 735- 0205 or email pilar.williams@guamcc.edu. ***(PR)***

Guam CHamoru commission meetings set

The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tåno' (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold a meeting on May 23, Thursdays, from 12:30pm to 3pm., at the Garden House, Plasa de Espana, in Hagåtña. A work session will also be held on May 16, from 12:30pm to 3pm at the same venue. For more information contact kumisión chair/gé'helo' Hope Alvarez Cristobal at 483-0097 or secretary/sikritåria Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. ***(PR)***

JKPL, Bookmobile closed for inventory

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and Bookmobile Outreach Services will be closed for five days for inventory, from May 14 to May 18, 2019. All penalties for items due during this period will be waived. We ask the public for your cooperation in utilizing library programs and services in the days not covered by inventory. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-020

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TWO SLUDGE DEWATERING EQUIPMENT'S

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the purchase of two Sludge Dewatering Equipment's; one for the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-020, Supply and Delivery of Two Sludge Dewatering Equipment's"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than May 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

ADDENDUM NO. 1
May 14, 2019

DPW19-IFB-013; Office Renovation for CNMI Department of Commerce Central Statistics Division, the Secretary of Public Works and the Director of Procurement and Supply wishes to extend the IFB submission date and attachment of Request for Information.

1. General: The following revisions, additions, corrections, and/or clarifications to the specifications and drawings shall apply to the work affected thereby. Careful note of this Addendum shall be taken by the bidder/contractor, and all trades affected shall be fully advised of the information contained herein. In the event of a conflict between drawings, specifications and this Addendum, the contents of this Addendum shall govern. All further conflicts in the work resulting from, or caused by, the contents of this Addendum must be brought to the attention of the Contracting Officer for resolution. Failure to acknowledge this bid Addendum in accordance with instructions may subject your Proposal to rejection on the affected item(s)/service(s).

2. Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-013."** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two (2) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 no later than 10:00 a.m., May 17, 2019 **is changed to read 10:00 a.m., local time May 24, 2019**.

3. Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Building No.1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan at 10:00 a.m., local time, **May 24, 2019**.

4. Performance Time for this Project is Forty Five (45) calendar days is **change to Seventy Five (75) calendar days.**

All other requirements of the Invitation to Bid the project package shall remain as stated.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

JACK S. REYES
Acting Director, P&S

END OF ADDENDUM NO. 1

Regular set meal of shrimp tempura with rice, coleslaw salad, miso soup, and pickles. BEA CABRERA

Affordable luxury lunch specials at Furusato

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Soy sauce with vegetables and flour with half fried chahan and gyoza for only $15. BEA CABRERA

ADVERTISING Feature

Since opening in 1996, the Furusato restaurant in Garapan has always stayed true to its Japanese roots, educating the local palate on the virtues of *umami*. This is its heart and soul—every meal will transport you to Japan without having to leave your table.

That journey to the culinary delights of Japan can now also be found in Furusato's Luxury Lunch Special, a special concept that aims to provide the luxury of a full meal while also delighting the other senses.

"We know that most lunch breaks run only an hour and, in that time, we want to be able to serve customers quality Japanese food that will help them get their energy back for the second part of their work, school or any activity in the afternoon," said Furusato administrative assistant Nancy Florentino.

Short ribs on rice with Japanese sauce, half ramen, and pickles for only $16. BEA CABRERA

She said the lunch specials are also intended to showcase Furusato as a good place to eat Japanese food, not only for happy hour and dinner but also for a quick lunchbreak.

Florentino said that many of Furusato's loyal customers and even the new ones crave for authentic Japanese food at a time of their choosing. "We have meals that will satisfy this craving," she added.

The Luxury Lunch Special is available every day at Furusato from 11:30am to 2pm for dine-in or take-out. Customers can choose from four different set meals.

For those wilting from the summer heat, cold soba or udon with tempura, two pieces of onigiri, and miso soup is the meal for you for only $15.

All-time favorite annake ramen (soy sauce ramen with vegetables and flour) comes with half fried rice and three pieces of dumplings for only $15.

For people who like meat, there is diced steak or saikoro steak, rice and pickles, and half ramen for only $16.

If you hanker for short ribs, they have kalbi udon on rice with Japanese sauce, half ramen, and pickles, for only $16.

For noodle lovers, there is also a Furusato Lunch Special that offers cold ramen, soba, and udon.

In all their years of operation, Furusato has never scrimped on its ingredients, Florentino said. "Whether from the Luxury Lunch Special menu, regular lunch, or dinner menu, we do not economize on our ingredients as that is considered a 'sin' by our boss and will totally change the flavor of the food."

"We have quality control… and our prices remain affordable. Our many years in the business is a proof that that is what our customers like about us—our authenticity," she added.

CNMI residents can avail of a 10-percent discount and free iced tea on any food order from the Luxury Lunch Special, Furusato Lunch Special's regular lunch, and dinner menus.

Restaurant supervisor Julie Arellano said that Furusato's menu is always changing. "We change our meal sets every now and then so customers have choices and not have the same meal over and over again, which tends to be boring. However, customers can be assured that their all-time favorites such as karage (Japanese fried chicken), sashimi, sushi, and shrimp tempura are staples in our menu."

"I have been working here for 19 years and I can attest that the taste that Furusato offered when it opened is still the same delicious taste and big portions that we have going now. This is why we remain in people's hearts," she added.

Furusato means hometown in English and they want to be your hometown when it comes to authentic Japanese food. For reservations, call (670) 233-3333.

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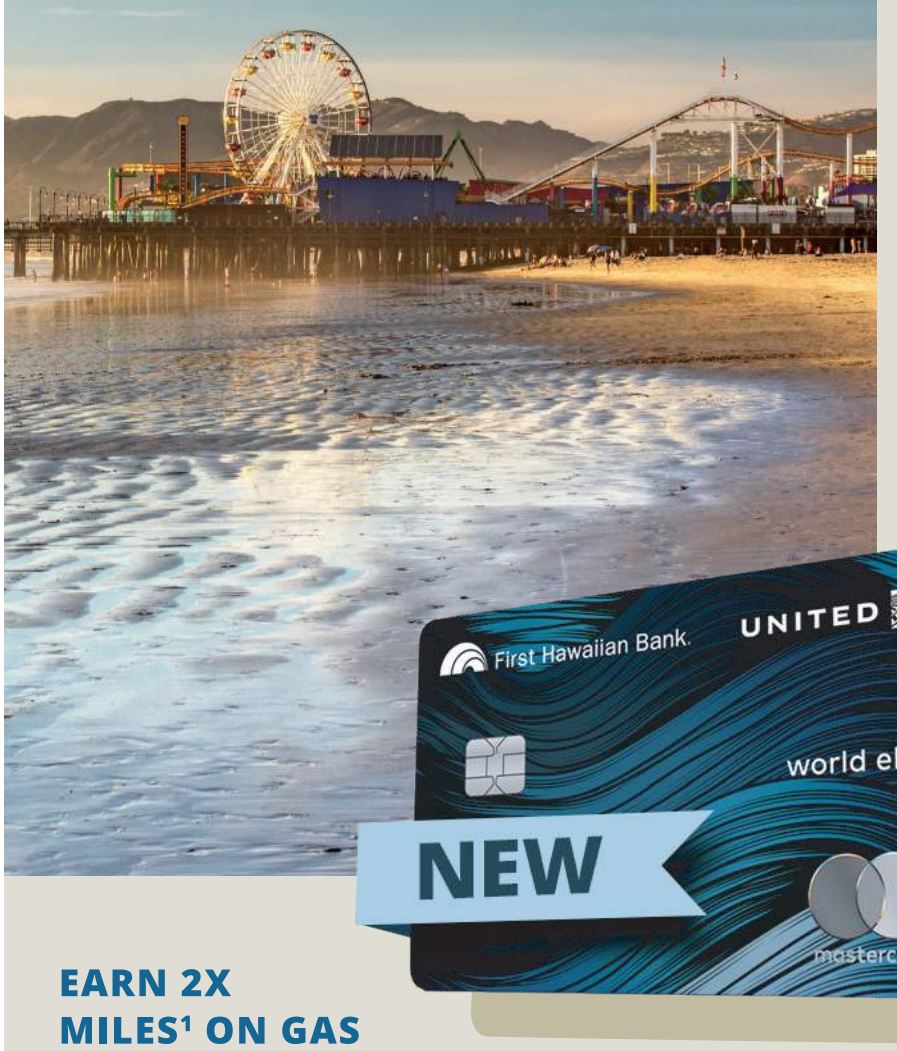

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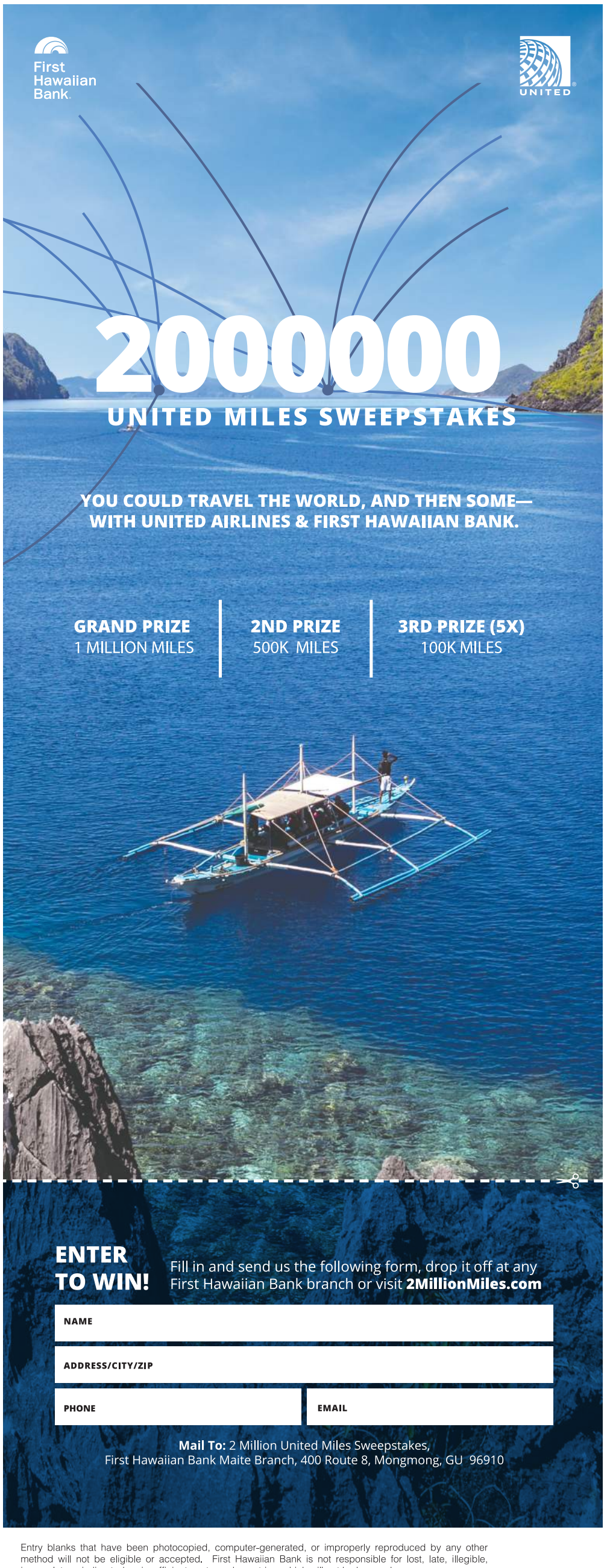
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J's Fried Rice Eating Contest at 'Taste'

Herman's Modern Bakery serves indigenous Chamorro and other cuisine at the 21st Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 11, 2019, at American Memorial Park, Saipan. The festival is organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and will be held every Saturday evening beginning at 6pm during May Tourism Month. MVA

Can you eat 10 lbs. of fried rice? How fast?

Those are the two questions contestants in the J's Fried Rice Eating Contest will answer this Saturday, May 18, as the 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden resumes at the American Memorial Park.

The Marianas Visitors Authority has found six contestants to take on each other and a mystery celebrity competitor from off-island in the event, with the first person to finish in under 30 minutes winning $1,000.

"Ten pounds of fried rice is really enormous, so this Saturday's contest is going to be a real feat of feasting," said MVA Community Projects coordinator and lead event coordinator Ray Villagomez. "We have also invited a mystery celebrity from off-island to challenge our local talent, so it's going to be an exciting night. We invite everyone to come out for a great match at 7pm this weekend at 'Taste.'"

If no contestant finishes in the time limit, a consolation prize will be awarded for the most fried rice eaten in the period.

At last Saturday's BBQ Whole Chicken Cook-off, Team Nat garnered first place for their entry served with a side of salsa, winning a one-night stay at Hyatt Regency Saipan, dinner for two at Kili Café at Hyatt, and a $250 gift certification from Chairman M restaurant.

Second place went to Kumpaires, the duo of Freddy Salavaria and Francis Mendiola, who also won second place in last week's Kadun Pika Cook-off. The duo won Sunday brunch for two at Hyatt Regency Giovanni's, Sunday brunch for two at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's World Café, and a $150 gift certificate from Chairman M.

Fiesta Resort & Spa serves customers at the 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 11, 2019, at the American Memorial Park. MVA

Festivalgoers peruse arts and crafts on display at the festival. MVA

Team Ping took third place, winning a cultural dinner show for two at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and $100 gift certificate from Chairman M.

The festival will also feature the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Junior Chefs Competition on May 25, also sponsored by Triple J Five Star Wholesale.

The Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden is an annual signature event of the MVA and is one of the largest annual celebrations in the Marianas.

The festival features international cuisine at affordable prices from local hotels and restaurant vendors, non-stop live entertainment on the main stage. Each Saturday this year, the first 40 patrons to purchase $40 or more in Taste tokens will receive a free caricature sketch by Ronald Valiente.

Twenty-three food and drink vendors offer their tastiest dishes and brews at American Memorial Park during the event. The festival includes delights from the kitchens of Hyatt Regency Saipan, Tony Roma's/Capricciosa, Fiesta Resort & Spa, D'Elegance Cafe, Kanoa Resort, Terry's Snack Bar, Furusato Restaurant, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Mystique BBQ, Sierra's Pearl Shake, Kinpachi Restaurant, Herman's Modern Bakery, Ina's Kitchen, Matty's BBQ, Tropical Chill, The Hut, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Java Joe's, and Thai House. Drinks are offered by Saipan Brewing Co., MARPAC, and Pacific Trading Co.

The festival will be held from 6pm to 10pm each Saturday (closing at 11pm on the final night). For more information, visit www.facebook.com/mymarianas or email communityprojects@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Further cuts to FY 2019 budget

The Torres administration announced Thursday last week that it will cut the fiscal year 2019 budget further by $17.9 million.

The Department of Finance recommended the amount "to ensure the fiscal viability of the Commonwealth for the long term," according to an administration statement.

"While the CNMI continues to show signs of recovery through improved overall collections from the previous quarter, our administration is taking the necessary steps to curb government spending as our economy recovers," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

The administration blames the shaky economy on the devastating effects of Super Typhoon Yutu, which levelled Saipan and Tinian in October 2018.

Torres described the budget cuts as a "very difficult decision" but necessary. He assured that payment to retirees and meeting payroll for government employees will continue to be prioritized.

He said the CNMI government has already taken the necessary steps to curtail costs, which include cost-containment measures on non-federally funded programs and agencies, curtailment of travel, and elimination of open accounts.

"It is important to remind everyone how we got here, and even more important to remember what we recently experienced," he added in the statement.

Super Typhoon Yutu is deemed the strongest storm in U.S. history since 1935, bringing winds and gusts up to 200 miles per hour on the islands of Saipan and Tinian, causing much damage to homes and businesses, displaced many residents and brought the economy to a standstill for about two months.

Damage assessments found that 532 homes were destroyed and 430 homes suffered major damage. A total of 832 residents were placed in shelters across the three islands.

The effects of this loss of economic activity lingered through the first and second quarter of fiscal year 2019 and are still widely felt today, with a 39.8-percent decline in tourist arrivals in March.

Based upon the revised projections submitted by the Department of Finance, the Torres administration's reductions amount to $29.9 million, which adjusts the gross budgetary resources to $228.17 million. This revises the FY 2019 budget authority to $141.5 million.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios emphasized that Yutu's impacts cannot be forgotten as the government and the community continues to recover.

"This administration has not forgotten the devastation cause by Yutu because we made zero revenue in the first two months after the storm due to an inoperable airport and an industry that did not see visitors or economic activity within that period of time. Revenue was expected to drop, and it required drastic, but necessary decisions in order to not drive up the deficit. That's what a responsible government had to do," Palacios said.

"This government had to be proactive in responding to the disaster through an innovative approach that saw unprecedented collaboration between local and federal partners. In order to meet the demand of recovery, local resources had to be expended for the upfront costs of the storms' impact. Evidently, it led to an efficient response and faster recovery through the expedient delivery of public services so that our people could feel whole again," he said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Marianas Public Land Trust member Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero, right, stresses a point in Tuesday's MPLT meeting at their office conference room. JON PEREZ

MPLT wants to meet with stakeholders first

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Public Land Trust wants to meet with stakeholders first to talk about Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' request for a line of credit. The five-member trustees also want answers from the administration how it intends to pay for the line of credit, whether it would paid monthly, quarterly, or annually.

Aside from Torres, other stakeholders invited to the meeting are Finance Secretary David Atalig, several members of the Legislature led by House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), House Ways and Means Committee chair Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), and House Natural Resources chair Antonio SN Borja (R-Saipan).

MPLT chair Martin B. Ada said they have several questions that needs to be answered by those involved in the planned line of credit.

Torres is asking MPLT for at least a $15-million line of credit that will be coursed through the Department of Finance. Attao introduced House Bill 21-44 to authorize the line of credit application.

Ada said they are pressed for time on the governor's request. "This is a major investment decision and we need to have the opinion of all trustees. Each trustee must make a statement on the LOC.

"We have also not yet decided on what numbers are we are going to act on. Right now, we are in a position to either grant or deny the request. We agreed that all of you will be making your individual statements on the LOC request. Further delay on the LOC request is not conducive to the governor's request, since April 26 was when we needed to respond back to the governor on our decision. If we approved the LOC, how much would it be?"

MPLT has $5.1 million cash on hand that is ready to be dispensed to the government but they are still waiting for an additional $2.4 million from the Department of Public Lands, which should have been remitted Tuesday.

MPLT administrator Bobbie Reyes said she has not received any communication from DPL about the transfer. "I called them and they said that, once they confirmed it, they would email us. I have not received any email."

"I talked to Evelyn Sablan, accounting manager, to see if the funds were transferred. I called to inquire if the $2.4 million has been transferred to our account. And she said that she has not received any confirmation from the bank and it was 4:15pm when I called her," Reyes added.

Ada said they would check on that and would give it one more day. "The $2.4 million—we extended it for another day because the liquidation process takes a little time. We expect it to be remitted but give it another day, another 24 hours."

The $15-million line of credit would cover the government's bond payment of $4.5 million and $10.5 million for its Settlement Fund obligation from June to September of fiscal year2019.

Among the questions MPLT trustees want answered are the government's mode of payment, whether it would be monthly, quarterly, or annually.

Ada, Hocog (Rota), former House speaker Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero, former senator Maria Frica T. Pangelinan, and Peter Q. Cruz of Tinian complete the MPLT board of trustees. Ada and Hocog are also former members of the House of Representatives in the CNMI Legislature.

Navy sailors ends maritime infrastructure assessment in FSM

U.S. Navy Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Rob Norton, assigned to Underwater Construction Team 2, conducts a level 2 wharf inspection at Pohnpei Harbor, enhancing regional resiliency during Pacific Partnership 2019 last May 2. U.S. NAVY/CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIAN 2ND CLASS PHILIP WALL

By MCS2 JASEN MORENO-GARCIA
CTF 75 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KOLONIA, Pohnpei—U.S. Navy sailors completed their inspection of a recompression chamber and assessment of the maritime infrastructure of the Pohnpei Harbor and Kapingamarangi Atoll last May 7.

The assessment, which began on April 16, will help maintain and expand the harbor port in Pohnpei and improve navigation safety in both Pohnpei and Kapingamarangi Atoll.

The inspection was part of an exercise called Pacific Partnership 2019. The inspectors were assigned to Underwater Construction Team 2, Construction Dive Det. Alpha.

"We came to Pohnpei for Pacific Partnership 2019 to inspect the faces of the wharf in the Pohnpei Harbor and do multiple hydrographic surveys, including surveying both the harbor in Pohnpei and Kapingamarangi Atoll," said Construction Electrician 1st Class Daniel Lehne, the project supervisor.

Capt. Randy Van Rossum, mission commander for Pacific Partnership 2019, said the exercise will create a safer environment for future disaster preparedness.

"I am confident that the planning and hard work we've invested thus far will show in our successful collaborative efforts for a long-lasting impact here in Micronesia," he said.

The UCT 2 sailors used a single-beam hydrographic survey to create a map of the different water depths along the Pohnpei Harbor and the channel in Kapingamarangi Atoll.

Lehne said the channel in Kapingamarangi Atoll is currently not only very narrow, but also has a very difficult 90-degree turn. The hard turn and the narrowness prevent larger vessels from transiting during increased sea states.

"The surveys we completed will allow us to formulate a calculated plan using [precision placement of] explosives and other dredging techniques to widen the channel, making it a much safer passage for local ferries and the boats bringing supplies to the atoll," said Lehne.

The UCT 2 team also performed a wharf inspection at Pohnpei Harbor using specialized equipment to test the thickness of the metal wall in the wharf face. The measurements taken will be used as a baseline measurement for future inspections to help track the deterioration of the metal on the face over time.

"We first began by training the Pohnpei port security divers on how to inspect their wharf because it has not been inspected since the '70s," said Construction Electrician 2nd Class Philip Wall. "We were able to show them underwater testing techniques using an ultrasonic thickness tester and a bathycorrometer to test metal thickness and cathodic protection."

Wall further explained that learning how to perform the wharf inspections would allow the port security members to maintain a safe wharf and eliminate the need of outside assistance to perform such crucial inspections.

This subject matter expert exchange is a cornerstone of Pacific Partnership, which aims to empower nations to improve their infrastructure and ability to respond to disaster emergencies.

The UCT 2 team also inspected a local recompression chamber at the Pohnpei State Hospital that has been nonoperational since 2015.

"We went to the hospital and did a walkthrough of the chamber," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Ryan Kitchens. "We had a checklist and discovered all the deficiencies. We developed a plan alongside the hospital manager to get the chamber operational and help save lives."

"We put a lot of effort into everything we did working with the locals," affirmed Lehne. "Instead of just completing another job, we became friends with a lot of the people here – we showed them how we do things so that they can continue doing those operations to make this a safer, more resilient place."

Pacific Partnership, now in its 14th iteration, is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Each year, the mission team works collectively with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase stability and security in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships across the Indo-Pacific.

Powerful quake rattles Papua New Guinea, no injury reports

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A powerful earthquake rattled coastal townships in Papua New Guinea late Tuesday and authorities say there have been no initial reports of major damage or injuries.

The magnitude 7.5 quake struck in the ocean about 45 kilometers (28 miles) northeast of Kokopo, a town with a population of about 26,000, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It was followed by several large aftershocks.

Chris McKee, the acting director of geohazards management, said there was some damage in Kokopo as items were shaken from shelves and the power had been cut. He said there had been a small tsunami although it was dark at the time and information about it remained sketchy.

McKee said the earthquake was a strike-slip event along a fault line, a type of quake that doesn't usually trigger major tsunamis.

The quake struck at a relatively shallow depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles), according to the USGS. Shallow earthquakes tend to cause more damage on the Earth's surface, but the USGS estimated that damage and injuries would be low because of the area's sparse population.

Garfield Tarabu, a spokesman at the National Disaster Centre, said a disaster coordinator was on the ground assessing the situation in and around Kokopo but they hadn't yet gotten an update on the extent of the damage.

The U.S. Pacific Tsunami Warning Center had said tsunami waves of up to 1 meter (3.3 feet) were possible along coastal areas up to 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from the epicenter, including Papua New Guinea and the nearby Solomon Islands.

Papua New Guinea is located on the eastern half of the island of New Guinea, to the east of Indonesia.

It sits on the Pacific's "Ring of Fire," the arc of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean where much of the world's earthquakes and volcanic activity occurs.

A magnitude 7.5 earthquake in February 2018 in the nation's central region killed at least 125 people and forced another 35,000 from their homes. That quake hit areas that are remote and undeveloped, and assessments about the scale of the damage and injuries were slow to filter out.

Upcoming police checkpoints

The CNMI Department of Public Safety will be conducting a total of for seatbelt and child restraint checkpoints on Wednesday, May 22, and Friday, May 24.

■ WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019

The first checkpoint will be on Chalan Pale Arnold, Garapan to Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Lau Lau, from 8am to 10am.

The second checkpoint will be on Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, San Jose, from 3pm to 6pm.

■ FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2019

The first checkpoint will be on Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, Susupe, from 9am to 12pm.

The second checkpoint will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose to Isa Drive, San Vicente, from 3pm to 6pm.

The purpose of the checkpoints are to promote public safety while increasing the awareness of the dangers of not utilizing a vehicles occupant protection system as well as child restraints systems while driving on the islands roadways. Locations of these checkpoints were pre-determined based on the number of auto accidents in these areas.

DPS would like to remind the public to use the proper carseat(s) when transporting children and to use your seatbelt when driving or riding through the islands' roads. ***(PR)***

SYP to host self-branding, social media marketing training today

The Saipan Young Professionals is hosting a "Self-Branding and Introduction to Social Media Marketing" training seminar today, May 16, 2019 from 6pm to 8pm at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office on the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315.

The training is free for registered members of Saipan Young Professionals and $35 each for non-members.

The training is intended for entrepreneurs, new and aspiring small business owners, newly employed, or transitioning employees on Saipan.

SYP chair Shayne Villanueva of Roil Soil Clothing and Promotions Co. is the main presenter.

Villanueva will share his personal branding knowledge, gathered through his experience establishing a locally-owned staple brand in the CNMI.

CNMI household name Mark "Go See Mark" Sablan of Atkins Kroll Saipan will also be a guest speaker.

This training will help you identify what would make your "brand" stand out from the crowd, gain tips on how to grow your online presence to get more followers, and build a brand that advances for your business goals.

"You are your most valuable product," said Villanueva. "Investing time in creating, understanding, and growing your brand image makes all the difference as a small business owner in our competitive market."

Training participants will enjoy light refreshments and a chance to network with other business professionals in the community. To register for the seminar or to learn how to become a member of Saipan Young Professionals, contact Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec at (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

To our loving, dearest grandmother, Grandma Rita Camacho, happy 78th birthday! We are blessed and grateful to have spent another blissful year with you. Your presence brightens up our day. We are faithful to the Lord for having you around. We love you and enjoy your day. Love, your children.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW VIDEO

Marianas Ocean tourism ambassador Yorko Summer films at the Grotto on Saipan on April 23, 2019, to develop a new diving film for the Marianas Visitors Authority. The new dive video that will be used to promote the Marianas at Diving Resort Travel in May and Asia Dive Expo in July.

MVA

Marianas Ocean tourism ambassador Yorko Summer, second from right, visits the Marianas Visitors Authority office on Tinian on April 26, 2019, as part of his trip to produce a new promotional film on the Marianas. From left, assistant director Jui Ting Ma, director Yi Jan Huang, Marianas Visitors Authority field supervisor Vida Borja, Summer, and assistant You Jie Chen. MVA

Marianas Ocean tourism ambassador Yorko Summer, third from right, visits The Shack on Saipan on April 22, 2019, to develop a new promotional film on the Marianas. MVA

BOH to close A. Samoa operations in August

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Bank of Hawaii and the American Samoa government jointly announced yesterday the finalization of plans for Bank of Hawaii to close its remaining operations in American Samoa on Aug. 16, 2019.

The announcement comes six and a half years after Bank of Hawaii first announced in November 2012 that it intends to leave the territory and concentrate on its Hawaii and West Pacific operations.

Despite scaling back operations and closing its Centennial Office in American Samoa in 2016, Bank of Hawaii never fully ceased operations, largely due to a personal request from Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga to Bank of Hawaii chair, president and CEO Peter Ho in December 2013 not to leave the territory until replacement banking services became available. Ho agreed to remain in American Samoa until suitable accommodations were in place.

"Our commitment is to provide a smooth transition for our customers and the American Samoa government, and we will not leave until we are comfortable that the depository needs of the territory can be appropriately accommodated," Ho said at the time. "We want to be supportive."

Moliga responded by saying, "Peter Ho's decision to delay Bank of Hawaii's departure from American Samoa reflects not only his leadership character, but that of Bank of Hawaii putting people first instead of profits, thereby promoting the true spirit of aloha."

Since that time, the American Samoa government has been successful in establishing the Territorial Bank of American Samoa, which opened for business on Oct. 3, 2016. It received final approval to access the Federal Reserve's U.S. payments system in April 2018. To help with the transition, Bank of Hawaii gifted its Centennial Branch and the BOH residence in Gataivai to TBAS.

TBAS is poised to receive any and all customers that wish to open accounts. In a statement, TBAS president Drew Roberts said, "We are grateful for the help of Bank of Hawaii and mindful of their contribution to the island. We have developed a good relationship and look forward to working with them during these next few months."

Ho said, "We could not be more grateful to our team of dedicated employees, including our branch manager EJ Ozu, who have stayed on the job to help ensure a smooth transition for our customers. We also want to express our appreciation to all of our customers and the community for the opportunity to serve them over the years."

Current Bank of Hawaii consumer accountholders in American Samoa will have the option of remaining customers or closing their accounts. For those consumers wishing to remain BOH customers, their accounts will be transferred to Honolulu. These customers will have a variety of means to transact with the bank, including online, by phone, or mobile, such as remote deposit. Consumer time deposit holders and IRA clients will be able to continue doing business with the bank by mail.

Business accountholders who do not move their accounts to another bank prior to Aug. 16, 2019, will be mailed a cashier's check for the balance in their account.

Bank of Hawaii, which began operations in American Samoa in 1969, currently has six employees. Those employees will have the option of applying for open positions with BOH in Hawaii or the West Pacific. Employees not continuing employment with Bank of Hawaii will be provided separation benefits, outplacement services and access to the bank's Employee Assistance Program along with health coverage through COBRA. ***(BOH)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Trump's tit-for-tat trade war with China escalates again

China has been breaking trade rules and cheating its way to manufacturing dominance for well over a decade, despite efforts by a succession of U.S. presidents to get it to abide by international norms. That's the main reason President Trump has tried to raise the pressure on China by imposing ever-larger tariffs on a growing number of Chinese goods.

Trump's decision to ratchet up tariffs came after a setback in his effort to persuade Chinese leaders to make fundamental changes in their economic policies. After five months of trade talks, Chinese negotiators reportedly reneged on some concessions they'd previously agreed to.

But let's not kid ourselves: The tariffs have imposed real costs on Americans, even though Trump keeps pretending that they don't. And it remains to be seen whether they will persuade China to change its ways.

Last week Trump raised tariffs to 25 percent from 10 percent on $200 billion in Chinese goods, most of them components and equipment purchased by American businesses. He also queued up 25 percent tariffs on an addition $325 billion worth of imports, extending the levies to almost all Chinese goods arriving in U.S. ports—including the sorts of consumer goods that the earlier rounds of tariffs avoided.

But China, which isn't as dependent on U.S. buyers for its exports as it used to be, isn't folding yet in the face of Trump's bluster. On Monday it announced yet another tit-for-tat increase in its own tariffs on U.S. goods., triggering a trillion-dollar stock-market sell-off. China's tariffs on farm goods and other products haven't been as broad as Trump's, but they've helped cause U.S. export growth to stall and agricultural prices to continue to slide.

Nevertheless, Trump has continued to make nonsensical statements about how Americans aren't being hit by the tariffs on Chinese goods, even as he bragged about how much money the levies were raising for the Treasury. Although the tariffs aim to reduce demand for China's goods by increasing the cost to buy them, the truth is that tariffs are taxes paid by U.S. importers, who pass as much of the cost on to their customers as they can. Like all taxes, they are a drag on the economy.

And as numerous economists have pointed out, not only do tariffs raise the price paid by Americans for imported goods, they lead domestic manufacturers to raise their prices opportunistically as well. They also give U.S. companies with global supply chains an incentive to move more production offshore, to the detriment of U.S. workers.

It would be one thing if the president were asking the country to put up with some temporary pain in an effort to bring about change in China. But his inability or refusal to acknowledge the costs and who's paying them suggest that, successful or not, he'll keep using tariffs to bend U.S. trading partners to his will. And we'll keep paying for it.

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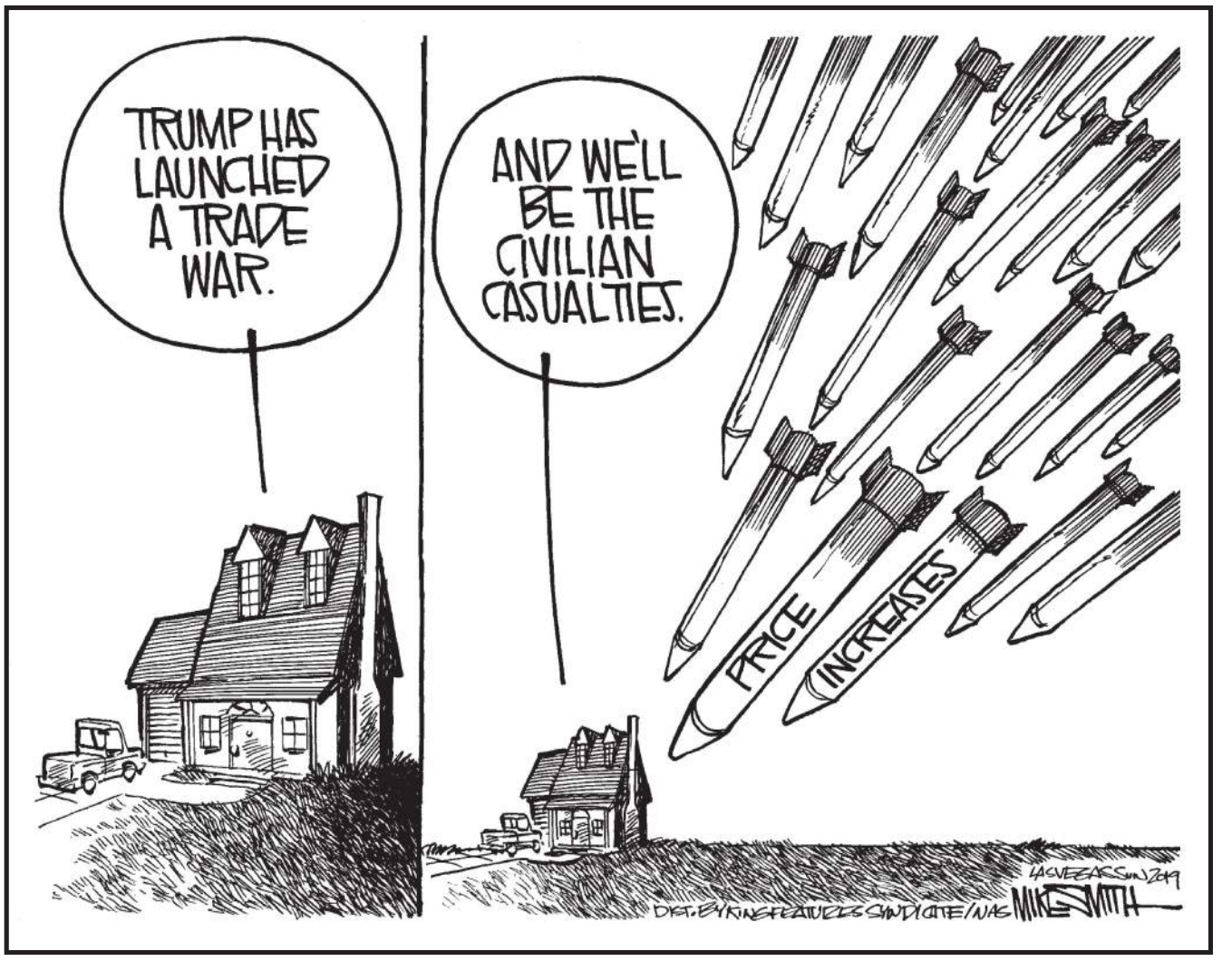
TRUMP HAS LAUNCHED A TRADE WAR.
AND WE'LL BE THE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.
PRICE INCREASES
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS
MIKE SMITH

In college bribery scandal, Felicity Huffman didn't act like she expected special treatment. Lori Loughlin? Jury's still out

By DAHLEEN GLANTON
Chicago Tribune

Dahleen Glanton is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. *Readers may email her at dglanton@chicagotribune.com.*

In pleading guilty in the college bribery scandal, Felicity Huffman acted like a regular person.

Huffman did a terrible thing. She paid $15,000 to boost her daughter's SAT scores so that the young woman could get into an elite university.

On Monday, Huffman went into a federal courtroom in Boston and admitted what she'd done. A judge will decide in September whether to sentence her to four months in prison and a $20,000 fine, as prosecutors have recommended, or punish her on his own terms.

After that, the public should allow her to pay her debt to society and get on with her life.

The interesting thing about Huffman, an Oscar-nominated actress who starred in the film "Transamerica" and is best-known for appearances on the TV shows, "Desperate Housewives" and "American Crime," is that she didn't look like a celebrity when she entered the courthouse. Nor did she try to act like one.

She seemed like a regular person, not as confident as we were used to seeing her on Housewives and even a little scared, as she sometimes appeared to be on the crime drama series. She looked like an ordinary person. She looked like us.

It is easy to forget that celebrities are just human beings. They spend most of their lives projecting an image that makes them appear larger than life. Much of their star power is dependent on their ability to make the public view them as more than average.

They need to convince the public that they are indeed the glamorous characters they portray on the screen. And the public enjoys believing that they are. The smart celebrities, though, realize that it's all fake.

Huffman, in her tearful admission, acknowledged that she is indeed like the rest of us, flawed human beings. She chose not to pretend that she did not break the law. Her explanation for doing so—that her daughter had neurological issues that required extra time for her to do her best work on the test—seemed plausible.

Still, she acknowledged that she had made a mistake. And she has apologized for it.

What I appreciate about Huffman's guilty plea is that she didn't act as though her celebrity status should afford her special consideration. She did not whine about being mistreated or misunderstood. She owned up to her misdeeds and prepared to accept the punishment.

Huffman deserves our respect for that, and maybe even our forgiveness. The same cannot be said for Lori Loughlin.

Loughlin, the "Full House" actress who was charged along with her clothing designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, in the same college admissions scandal has acted as though privilege gave them the right to break the rules.

The two of them have chosen to fight charges of money laundering and paying $500,000 bribe to slip their two non-athletic daughters into the University of Southern California by passing them off as members of the rowing team. That is Loughlin's and Giannulli's right under the law, and they should be considered innocent until a court proves otherwise. But there also are consequences.

A friend revealed to the media that Loughlin is tired of the criticism and constant jokes about her on late-night television. In her eyes, she is a victim, and she deserves to be treated like one.

"This is putting unspeakable stress on her and her family," the source told People magazine recently. "They're having to play this all out publicly, and they're fair game for jokes and memes, but also outraged (by) people who are saying that they are cheaters.

"They're being destroyed."

It appears that Loughlin has bought into the ridiculous notion that people of means have the right to cheat and not be considered cheaters, that her family, along with the other high-profile celebrities, business executives and others who were caught up in the scandal are owed respect and privacy.

See IN COLLEGE on Next Page

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Lingering 'Game of Thrones' questions: Where's all the dragon poop?

By REX HUPPKE
Chicago Tribune

Rex Huppke is a Chicago Tribune *columnist. Readers may send him email at rhuppke@chicagotribune.com.*

If you haven't watched the penultimate episode of "Game of Thrones" that aired Sunday night, be warned this column contains some spoilers. That only matters if you haven't already had the show spoiled by quite literally every person on the internet.

(Also, if you don't know what "penultimate" means, don't feel bad. I had to Google it myself.)

OK, enough with the preamble. (Not to brag, but I didn't have to Google "preamble.")

As HBO's hit dragon porn show heads toward its final episode, there are several nagging questions I fear may go unanswered. My hope is this column will allow the show's producers to make last-minute changes before the series finale that will clear things up for me and other devoted GoT fans.

1) Will Daenerys Targaryen, the reproductively improbable Mother of Dragons, declare next week "Infrastructure Week" in King's Landing?

Throughout the show, Daenerys has been fighting to take what she believes is her rightful place on the ergonomically suspect Iron Throne, which sits inside the castle at King's Landing.

Poised to finally conquer King's Landing, what did Daenerys decide to do? She used her remaining fire-belching dragon/son to torch the whole place! And we're not talking a mild charring here—the would-be queen of the seven kingdoms leveled most of the city, doing irreparable structural harm to most of the buildings and completely devastating footpaths and roadways. If she hadn't also barbecued most of the city's inhabitants, the Monday morning King's Landing traffic would have been a NIGHTMARE.

I can only assume a good portion of the season finale will feature a lengthy and contentious meeting of the King's Landing Public Works Department.

Also, along with the insurance nightmare sure to come, given that few in King's Landing had dragon attack coverage, there are serious questions as to what all the reptilian mouth fire might have done to the Iron Throne. It's a reasonable bet that Queen Daenerys Targaryen, thanks to her questionable life choices, will now take her rightful place on the Iron Puddle.

And her title should be updated to: "Daenerys of the House Targaryen, the First of Her Name, The Unburnt, Queen of the Andals, the Rhoynar and the First Men, Queen of Meereen, Khaleesi of the Great Grass Sea, Protector of the Realm, Lady Regent of the Seven Kingdoms, Breaker of Chains, Mother of Dragons and Maker of Unwise Real Estate Decisions."

2) Who cleans all this stuff up?

Speaking of messes, let's go back a couple of episodes to the Battle of Winterfell, an epic showdown between the living and the army of the dead. It appeared that approximately 17 million people were killed in that fight, either by sword or mild-to-severe incineration.

That's a whole lot of clutter, made worse the moment the Night King was killed and turned into crushed ice. Every member of his army of the dead stopped in his or her skeletal tracks and collapsed into a heap of decaying yuck.

While some cheered the victory, I just sat back and surveyed the mass of bodies and bones and blood and assorted pointy metal things and thought: "Oh, great. Who the heck is gonna clean THIS up?"

There should have been an entire episode called "The Cleaning of Winterfell." Where do they put all those dead and re-dead people? How do you get blood off stone walls once it has been baked on by fiery dragon breath?

If it were me, I would have just packed it up and built another Winterfell a few miles away, preferably not downwind of Old Winterfell.

3) Where is all the dragon poop?

This isn't about being juvenile, it's a legitimate question. At one point there were three humongous dragons flapping around and they seemed to eat sheep and occasionally humans like Scooby snacks. Are you telling me nobody ever came across or got hit by dragon droppings the size of a Volkswagen bus?

There were massive armies racing across wide-open fields and there are big honking dragons flying above and I'm supposed to believe there weren't at least a few soldiers who slowed down and shouted: "AWWWW, DUDE! WHAT DID I STEP IN?!?"

From a gastroenterological standpoint, this is a massive plot hole.

4) Why is there no cushion on the Iron Throne?

The Iron Throne is a large iron chair made of melted swords. It is jagged and pointy. There is nothing about it that says, "Hey, why don't you set your keister down right here and take a rest?"

And yet, for the entire run of the show, I haven't seen a single cushion on the dumb thing. Not a folded blanket to sit on. Not a throw pillow to soften the back up a bit. Nothing.

Truly the worst piece of furniture ever imagined. It would be like making a toilet fashioned after a dragon's mouth.

5) Have any of these people ever just considered moving somewhere else?

Look, I'm not familiar with anything outside the greater Westeros area, but it seems whatever the rest of the Game of Thrones world is like, it can't be much worse than the murderous nightmare the show's characters have been enduring these past eight seasons.

If the general infighting and routine head-lopping-off wasn't enough to drive a resident elsewhere, one would think the whole "army of the dead" invasion and the arrival of fire-breathing dragons might have pushed property values down to the point where moving to a nicer continent would've been a smart economic decision.

I'm not saying Westeros doesn't have its nice areas, but the overall Yelp reviews can't be good at this juncture. Combine that with the aforementioned mess at Winterfell and the freshly fried King's Landing housing market and residents have every reason to leave.

And don't get me started on the dragon poop.

Our trillion-dollar problem deserves bipartisan attention

By TIM PENNY and DAVID MINGE
CQ-ROLL CALL

Our nation is now staring at trillion-dollar annual deficits. The Congressional Budget Office in a report this month warned the nation once again that our yearly red ink could top $1 trillion as soon as next year. Our national debt is projected to grow faster than the economy—forever.

How many warnings will it take for our leaders to pay attention? What is the tipping point that will force our leaders to act?

During the past two years, our Congress and president ran up a massive bill, adding $2.4 trillion of new debt over the next decade. It was a bipartisan spending spree—from tax cuts to spikes in defense and nondefense domestic spending. Everyone got to throw something onto the national credit card.

Never at a time of such economic prosperity have our deficits been so high. During times of growth, our leaders should have paid down the debt and addressed our underfunded and insolvent social safety net programs. Instead, they poured debt-fueled stimulus into the economy and created a short-term sugar high at the expense of our long-term financial security.

When we served Minnesota in Congress during the 1990s, deficits were on the decline. They eventually turned into surpluses. Both parties celebrated fiscal discipline, and President Bill Clinton often cites those surpluses as one of his great achievements. So does former Republican Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Our leaders should hang their heads in shame for where they have led us since then. The deterioration is so dramatic that some public figures are testing out a once-fringe argument that debt doesn't really matter in an attempt to diminish the threat.

Ask the average American if they are happy that more than $2,000 of their tax bill this year went just to interest payments on the debt. Or that on our current path we will one day spend more on interest each year than on the military or Medicare. It will certainly matter then.

It's easier to pretend the 22-trillion-pound monster in the room isn't there than to turn around and face it, but we will have to face it eventually.

If another war, disaster or recession hits, that day could come sooner than some are expecting. How do we respond to a crisis when our debt is larger than the entire economy? Or double the size? Or triple? Those are the projections for our debt.

Record debt doesn't just hurt the nation's bottom line, it hurts our people. It slows income growth, crowds out other priorities, pushes up interest rates on mortgages and credit cards, and passes the buck (along with less opportunity) to the next generation.

It is going to take new revenue and spending restraint to dig out of the hole where we find ourselves. The first step to fiscal stability is to stop the digging and for politicians to stop tearing each other apart just for proposing fiscal solutions instead of "free lunches."

There was a time when bipartisan compromise was a good thing that solved problems. In fact, it brought us budget surpluses once. Our leaders need to meet in the sensible center to solve this deficit problem once again.

Tim Penny served Minnesota in the House of Representatives from 1983 to 1995 and is a board member of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. David Minge served Minnesota in the House of Representatives from 1993 to 2001. He is also a board member of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

IN COLLEGE

From Page 10

She wants the judicial system to treat her special, while the public treats her like an ordinary person. It cannot work both ways.

The difference between her and the rest of us is that regular people would never have been invited into that exclusive club of cheaters. We would not have qualified to provide our children with an opportunity they had not earned.

First of all, most of us don't have that kind of money. And even if we did, some of us wouldn't do it because it's just plain wrong. Or we'd be too afraid of getting caught. Whatever the reason, we don't have those options.

Recently, a source told CNN that Loughlin believes she and her husband did nothing wrong. They believe they did what anyone in their financial situation would do to get their kids into schools. They don't see why they have become the poster children for bad behavior. They think the whole mess is just a circus.

Loughlin doesn't seem to understand that the scandal was a serious misuse of privilege, and regular people need the privileged people to pay.

It would be nice if the public weren't so thirsty for news—bad or good—about celebrities. But that's where we are in 2019. And there are more than enough celebrity gossip sites to click on, too many television rating wars to win, too many Twitter followers to gain and the social media beast is always growling to be fed.

Huffman was smart enough to realize that privileged people can't drift in and out of Hollywood's make-believe world and the real world whenever it fits them. But Loughlin doesn't get it.

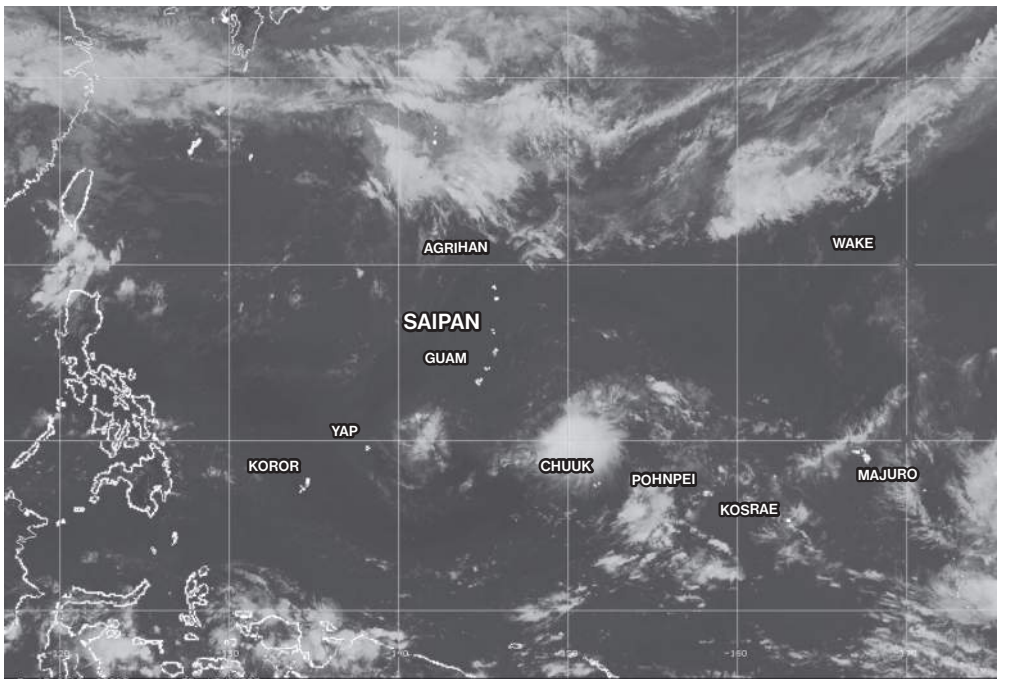
As a result, she's paying the price for failing to understand what it means to be privileged.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers	Partly sunny with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers
88° 79°	88° 70°	80° 70°	80° 70°	80° 70°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:29 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Isolated showers continue to move through the region, but have decreased since overnight as a surface trough moved just to the west of the area. Drier conditions are seen immediately east of the Marianas waters. The tropical disturbance remains well SE of Guam, near 10N150E, near a plume of deep convection that recently developed.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 57°
Beijing	Cloudy	81° / 63°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Honolulu	Showers	85° / 73°
London	Cloudy	59° / 50°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	69° / 56°
Manila	Thunderstorms	93° / 82°
Melbourne	Sunny	68° / 46°
Miami	Thunderstorms	82° / 76°
New York	Showers	73° / 58°
Osaka	Cloudy	79° / 66°
Paris	Cloudy	64° / 50°
Busan	Rain	70° / 63°
Rome	Showers	68° / 55°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	87° / 65°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 51°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	84° / 61°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	75° / 61°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	82° / 66°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
05:27 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.00
12:11 AM	LOW TIDE	0.25
6:12 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.75
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:40 AM	4:12 PM
Friday	-	4:25 AM	5:08 PM
Saturday	-	5:10 AM	6:05 PM
Sunday	-	5:56 AM	7:02 PM
Monday	-	6:45 AM	7:59 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ62	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 4, 5
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:10am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 3, 4
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

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SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Saudi Arabia says its oil pipeline was hit by drones

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—An oil pipeline that runs across Saudi Arabia was hit Tuesday by drones, the Saudi energy minister said, as regional tensions flared just days after what the kingdom called an attack on two of its oil tankers in the Persian Gulf.

While both U.S. President Donald Trump and Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said they were not planning for conflict, the volatility was felt in oil markets with benchmark Brent crude trading over $71 a barrel, up more than $1 on the day.

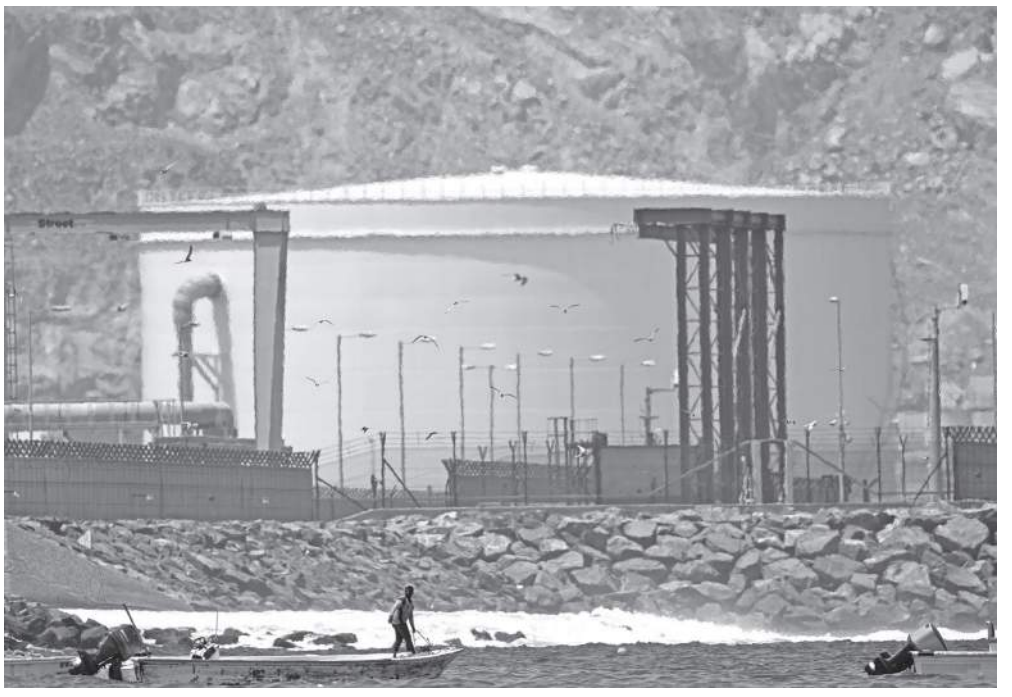
The pipeline that runs from the kingdom's oil-rich Eastern Province to a Red Sea port was shut down, but Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih Al-Falih vowed that the production and export of Saudi oil would not be interrupted.

The Houthis, who are at war with Saudi Arabia, said earlier Tuesday they launched seven drones targeting vital Saudi installations, without elaborating. They later claimed responsibility for the pipeline attack in comments broadcast by Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Sari.

In a statement carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency, al-Falih called the pipeline attack "cowardly," saying recent acts of sabotage against the kingdom were targeting not only Saudi Arabia but also the safety of the world's energy supply and global economy.

The attacks demonstrated the increased risks in a region vital to global energy supplies amid heightened tensions following the Trump administration's withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, and the subsequent re-imposition of U.S. sanctions to cripple the Iranian economy. Iran has since said it would begin enriching uranium at higher levels by July 7 if world powers failed to negotiate new terms for the deal.

The Saudis did not immediately assign blame for the drone assaults, which targeted two oil pumping stations west



AP

A fisherman prepares his boat near an oil storage tank in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, Monday, May 13, 2019.

of the capital supplying the pipeline that runs from the east of Saudi Arabia to the Yanbu Port on its western coast.

Still, al-Falih in his statement named Yemeni rebel Houthis as a group that must be internationally confronted and accused them of being backed by Iran, Saudi Arabia's regional rival.

Saudi Arabia has been at war with the Houthis and their allies in Yemen since March 2015, targeting the Iranian-allied rebels with near daily airstrikes.

"This is a message to Saudi Arabia: Stop your aggression," Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdel-Salam told The Associated Press. "Our goal is to respond to the crimes they are committing everyday against the Yemeni people."

Saudi Aramco, the government-controlled oil company, said that as a precaution, it temporarily shut down the East-West Pipeline and contained a fire, which caused minor damage to one pumping station. It added that Saudi Aramco's oil and gas supplies were not affected.

Saudi Arabia said the two petroleum pumping stations that were struck by drones are located in the greater region of Riyadh, home to the landlocked capital. The stations, targeted around the same time early Tuesday, are located in al-Duadmi and Afif, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) west and 400 kilometers (250 miles) west of Riyadh city, respectively.

Saudi Arabia built its pipeline in the 1980s amid fears that the Iran-Iraq war would cut off shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. The 1,200-kilometer (746-mile) pipeline is actually two pipes that have a total capacity of 4.8 million barrels of crude oil a day, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Disney takes over Hulu from Comcast as stream wars heat up

NEW YORK (AP)—Disney is taking full control of Hulu from Comcast, as both companies prepare to launch their own streaming services in response to declining audiences for traditional TV.

The companies said Tuesday that Comcast, which owns a third of Hulu, can sell its stake to Disney starting in 2024, for a minimum of $5.8 billion. Until then, Comcast will be a silent investor.

Hulu launched more than a decade ago as the major entertainment companies dealt with the rise of digital media. While YouTube became a home for digital video, Netflix built up a streaming library of back seasons of popular TV shows and movies, and Hulu made TV episodes from networks such as ABC, NBC and Fox available online after they aired on TV.

Hulu today still shows network TV episodes and original series for $6 a month. It has a newer, cable-like service with live TV channels for $45 a month.

In the past few years, many other streaming services have emerged, helping more people drop their cable subscriptions. These include ones from AT&T and Google that, like Hulu's live-TV service, compete with the traditional cable bundle. Others are more focused, like HBO Now.

Meanwhile, big media companies that own TV networks are looking to launch still more streaming services as a way to make up for revenue lost from fewer cable subscriptions.

Disney's deal with Comcast isn't surprising. Disney had already become the majority owner of Hulu when it absorbed Fox's stake as part of its purchase of Fox's entertainment businesses .

Having total control of Hulu gives Disney more power to support its own streaming efforts. The company is launching a new kids-focused streaming service called Disney Plus this year for $7 a month and is likely to offer discounted bundles with Hulu and its sports service, ESPN Plus.

Meanwhile, Comcast's NBCUniversal will debut a streaming service in 2020. And AT&T's WarnerMedia is launching its own streaming service, with a focus on HBO and other shows and movies owned by the company. There's also a new one from Apple, with original content.

An aftereffect of all these new services could be the fragmentation of content. You may have to pay for more streaming services to keep watching the same stuff.

Disney is planning to take back its library, which includes Pixar, Marvel and "Star Wars" movies, from Netflix for its own services. Other popular shows on Netflix, including "Friends" and "The Office," are owned by the big entertainment companies, and they may want to have them back for their own services. AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson said at an investors conference Tuesday that the company, which owns "Friends," will be "bringing a lot of these media rights, licensing rights back to ourselves" for its streaming service.

Consumers could be collateral damage if US expands tariffs

WASHINGTON (AP)—For many Americans, President Donald Trump's trade war may soon get very real.

His administration is preparing to extend 25% tariffs to practically all Chinese imports not already hit with duties, including toys, sneakers, shirts, alarm clocks, toasters and coffeemakers. That's roughly $300 billion worth of products on top of the $250 billion targeted earlier.

"The administration's decision to announce a tax on every product coming from China puts America's entire economy at risk," the Retail Industry Leaders Association said in a statement. "Americans' entire shopping cart will get more expensive."

Trump's tariffs are meant to put pressure on China in trade negotiations. The two countries have held 11 rounds of talks over American allegations that China steals technology, forces foreign companies to hand over trade secrets and unfairly subsidizes its own companies in a push to challenge U.S. technological dominance.

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative on Monday published a list of 3,805 products that could be hit for the first time with 25% tariffs. The list includes things like tuna, pacifiers, saw blades, flashlights, door chimes, billiard balls and golf carts. It excludes pharmaceuticals and rare-earth minerals used in electronics and batteries.

The agency will take public comments and hold a hearing on the proposed tariffs June 17.

In its earlier rounds of tariffs on Chinese products, the administration tried to limit the effect on American consumers by focusing on so-called intermediate goods—imported components that U.S. companies use to make finished products.

That is about to change. Companies are already bracing for the fallout.

E-Blox, an educational toy company in Buffalo Grove, Illinois, imports toys from China and assembles and packages them in the U.S.

"We are keeping a close eye on this next round," said E-Blox Chief Operating Officer Joe Seymour. "That would be devastating."

If he tries to pass along the higher costs from the new tariff on toys to customers, he said, he will lose sales. And the company's profit margins aren't big enough for it to simply absorb the tariffs, he said.

Could E-Blox move manufacturing back to the U.S.—as Trump has suggested—to dodge the taxes on imports? Seymour said that would be hard because the Trump administration has slapped import taxes on the Chinese plastic injection molding machines he would need to produce toys in this country.

China, for its part, has punched back by imposing tariffs on $110 billion in U.S. products.

Trump on Tuesday shrugged off the tariff war. "We're having a little squabble with China," he said at the White House.

Mary Lovely, an economist at Syracuse University, said it is unclear whether the expanded tariffs will pressure Beijing to give in to U.S. demands.

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+207.06	+22.54	+87.47
+.82%	+.80%	+1.14%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.4435	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8489	Russian Ruble	64.8870
British Pound	0.7747	Indian Rupee	69.5600	Singapore Dollar	1.3687
Canadian Dollar	1.3466	Japanese Yen	109.6060	South Korean Won	1169.85
Chinese Yuan	6.7523	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1281	Swiss Franc	1.0087
Euro	0.8922	New Zealand Dollar	1.5233	Taiwan Dollar	30.6055
		Philippine Peso	51.3491	Thailand Baht	31.5235

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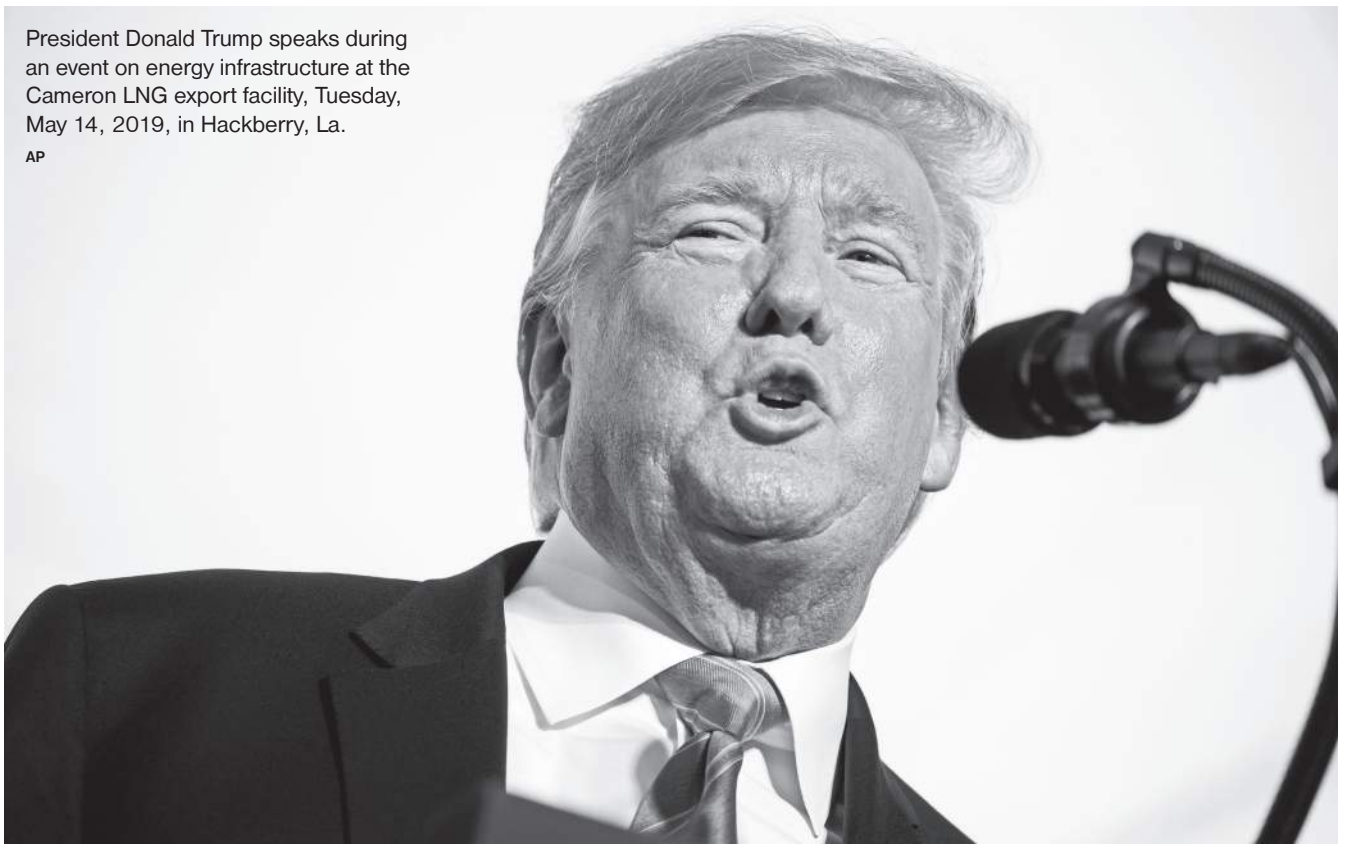
Nation

Global worries flare over whether US sliding toward Iran war



President Donald Trump speaks during an event on energy infrastructure at the Cameron LNG export facility, Tuesday, May 14, 2019, in Hackberry, La.
AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—International worries that the Trump administration is sliding toward war with Iran flared into the open Tuesday amid skepticism about its claims that the Islamic Republic poses a growing threat to the U.S. and its allies in the Persian Gulf and beyond .

The U.S. military rebutted doubts expressed by a British general about such a threat. President Donald Trump denied a report that the administration has updated plans to send more than 100,000 troops to counter Iran if necessary. But Trump then stirred the controversy further by saying: "Would I do that? Absolutely."

The general's remarks exposed international skepticism over the American military build-up in the Middle East, a legacy of the 2003 invasion of Iraq that was predicated on false intelligence. U.S. officials have not publicly provided any evidence to back up claims of an increased Iranian threat amid other signs of allied unease.

As tensions in the region started to surge, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said his nation was worried about the risk of accidental conflict "with an escalation that is unintended really on either side." Then on Tuesday, Spain temporarily pulled one of its frigates from the U.S.-led combat fleet heading toward the Strait of Hormuz. That was followed by the unusual public challenge to the Trump administration by the general.

"No, there's been no increased threat from Iranian-backed forces in Iraq and Syria," said Maj. Gen. Chris Ghika, a senior officer in the U.S.-backed coalition fighting the Islamic State group. Ghika, speaking in a video conference from coalition headquarters in Baghdad, told reporters at the Pentagon that the coalition monitors the presence of Iranian-backed forces "along with a whole range of others because that's the environment we're in."

But he added, "There are a substantial number of militia groups in Iraq and Syria, and we don't see any increased threat from any of them at this stage."

Late in the day, in a rare public rebuttal of an allied military officer, U.S. Central Command said Ghika's remarks "run counter to the identified credible threats" from Iranian-backed forces in the Mideast. In a written statement, Central Command said the coalition in Baghdad has increased the alert level for all service members in Iraq and Syria.

"As a result, (the coalition) is now at a high level of alert as we continue to closely monitor credible and possibly imminent threats to U.S. forces in Iraq," the statement said.

At the White House, Trump, who has repeatedly argued for avoiding long-term conflicts in the Mideast, discounted a New York Times report that the U.S. has updated plans that could send up to 120,000 troops to counter Iran if it attacked American forces.

"Would I do that? Absolutely," he told reporters. "But we have not planned for that. Hopefully we're not going to have to plan for that. If we did that, we'd send a hell of a lot more troops than that."

Reinforcing Trump's denial, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said at a joint news conference in Sochi with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, "We fundamentally do not seek war with Iran."

A Trump administration official said a recent small meeting of national security officials was not focused on a military response to Iran, but instead concentrated on a range of other policy options, including diplomacy and economic sanctions. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Lavrov said Pompeo told him that a potential deployment of 120,000 U.S. troops to the Mideast was only a "rumor." Lavrov said the international community needs to focus on diplomacy with Iran, including on the potentially explosive issue of Iran's nuclear program, which is constrained by a U.S.-brokered deal in 2015 that Trump has abandoned.

U.S. Iran envoy Brian Hook told reporters traveling with Pompeo in Brussels that the secretary of state shared intelligence on Iran with allies since "Europe shares our concerns about stability in the Gulf and the Middle East." What the Europeans do not share, however, is Washington's more aggressive approach to Iran.

"We are very worried about the risk of a conflict happening by accident, with an escalation that is unintended really on either side but ends with some kind of conflict," British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt told reporters in Brussels.

Alabama Senate passes near-total ban on abortion

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Alabama's Senate passed a near-total ban on abortion Tuesday, sending what would be the nation's most stringent abortion law to the state's Republican governor.

The Republican-dominated Senate voted 25-6 for the bill that would make performing an abortion at any stage of pregnancy a felony punishable by up to 99 years or life in prison for the abortion provider. The only exception would be when the woman's health is at serious risk.

Senators rejected an attempt to add an exception for rape and incest. The amendment was voted down 21-11, with four Republicans joining Democrats in the seeking the amendment.

"You don't care anything about babies having babies in this state, being raped and incest," Democratic Sen. Bobby Singleton said after the amendment's defeat. "You just aborted the state of Alabama with your rhetoric with this bill."

Rep. Terri Collins, the bill's sponsor, said she expects Gov. Kay Ivey to sign the bill into law. Ivey has not publicly commented on what she'll do.

Supporters said the bill is designed to conflict with the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationally, because they hope to spark a court case that might prompt the justices to revisit abortion rights.

"It's to address the issue that Roe. v. Wade was decided on. Is that baby in the womb a person?" Collins said of the bill after approval.

The bill's sponsor and other supporters had argued that exemptions would weaken their hope of creating a vehicle to challenge Roe. Collins said the Alabama law isn't meant to be a long-term measure and lawmakers could add a rape exemption if states regain control of abortion access.

ACROSS THE NATION

Dive team probes icy Alaska waters for missing passengers

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Dive teams plunged into the icy cold waters of a southeast Alaska inlet Tuesday, searching an area the size of 24 football fields for two cruise ship passengers missing after two sightseeing planes collided. The Coast Guard has confirmed four fatalities in the collision Monday afternoon near Ketchikan, a popular destination for cruise ships in Alaska. Ten people, all Americans, were injured, with three of them released from a hospital Tuesday. The missing passengers were from Canada and Australia, Princess Cruises said. The Royal Princess, which can carry up to 3,600 people, was among four city-sized cruise ships in the tiny coastal community on Monday. During port stops, visitors can shop in tourist stores or take part in several excursions, such as visiting an Alaska Native village, tour the backcountry, or visit a raptor center. Another popular trip is flightseeing in Misty Fjords National Monument. Visitors marvel at the lakes, snowcapped peaks and glacier valleys in the wilderness area. Trips cost about $260 each. The larger plane, a de Havilland Otter DHC-3 with 10 passengers and the pilot, was returning from Misty Fjords when it collided with a smaller sightseeing plane, a de Havilland DHC-2 Beaver carrying four passengers from the same cruise ship and a pilot.

Authorities ID hiker killed in Appalachian Trail attack

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—An Oklahoma man was stabbed to death in an attack on the Appalachian Trail in southwestern Virginia, federal authorities said Tuesday. The FBI and U.S. Attorney Thomas Cullen said 43-year-old Ronald S. Sanchez Jr. died of injuries he received Saturday. James Jordan of West Yarmouth, Massachusetts, has been charged with murder and assault with intent to murder for allegedly attacking Sanchez and a female hiker. Authorities said Jordan had repeatedly threatened four hikers before chasing them with a knife. Two managed to escape. Authorities have not identified the wounded female hiker, who remains hospitalized. Hikers had complained to authorities in southwestern Virginia and in Tennessee in recent weeks about Jordan allegedly threatening them. "The Appalachian Trail is a relatively safe environment, a refuge that welcomes more than three million users a year," said Suzanne Dixon, president of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, in a news release. "Unfortunately, like the rest of the world, the trail is not absolutely safe."

Nebraska farmer amputates leg with knife to escape auger

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—A northeastern Nebraska farmer is recovering after cutting off his own leg with a pocket knife to save himself from a piece of farm equipment he had become caught in. Omaha television station KETV reports that 63-year-old Kurt Kaser, of Pender, was unloading corn last month when he got out of his truck and accidentally stepped on the grain hopper opening. An auger in the hopper caught Kaser's leg, pulling it in and mangling it. An auger is a tube that uses a rotating shaft to suck the grain and push it through the tube to deposit in a bin. Kaser said he couldn't pull his leg out and didn't have his cellphone. There was no one around to help. So, he took his pocket knife out and sawed off his leg below the knee. After he was freed, he crawled 150 feet to the nearest phone and was flown to a hospital. Kaser says he never lost consciousness. On Friday, Kaser was released from a rehabilitation center. He will have to wait for the amputated leg to fully heal before getting a prosthetic leg.

Asia

Anxiety and hope over church schools reopening after attacks

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Catholic officials and parents in Sri Lanka are hopeful that church-run schools will begin to reopen soon for the first time since last month's devastating Easter Sunday attacks on churches and hotels.

All of the island nation's schools were set to reopen the day after the bombings following a two-week break, but they remained closed after the attacks, which killed more than 250 people and injured hundreds more. Government schools reopened last week, but many children stayed home, fearing another attack.

Catholic schools, however, have stayed shut out worried that other Catholic properties could be targeted in further attacks.

In a memo to Catholic institutions earlier this month, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, the archbishop of Colombo, said he had information from a trusted foreign source that a famous church and a lay institution were to be attacked. The church confirmed that the memo, which first appeared on social media, was authentic.

On Sunday, the Catholic Church held the first regular Sunday Mass since the April 21 coordinated suicide bombings, amid tight security. Sunday services had been canceled the two previous weekends apprehensive of more attacks, leaving the faithful to hear Mass via live TV transmission from Ranjith's residence.

Later Sunday, Ranjith gave Sri Lanka's Catholic school administrators permission to reopen on an individual basis in coordination with local security officials.

Rangika Perera, a teacher in a Catholic school where her daughter also studies, said reopening the schools and churches was the best way to demonstrate that Sri Lanka's Catholics hadn't been defeated by terrorism.

"They want to deprive us in every way and we should not help them succeed by our fear," she said.

The Rev. Ivan Perera, the priest in charge of Sri Lanka's Catholic schools, said that Catholic school administrators have sent study packs to children by email with exercises on a variety of subjects, but that the toll has been more than academic.

Duterte allies appear to have won Philippine Senate seats

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Rodrigo Duterte's allies appeared to have overwhelming leads in elections for the Philippine Senate, one of the opposition's last bulwarks against a brash populist leader accused of massive human rights violations.

Preliminary results comprising 94% of returns from Monday's midterm elections showed at least eight candidates endorsed by Duterte were leading in races for 12 seats in the 24-member Senate. Official Commission on Election results are expected to be declared in about a week.

Those leading include Duterte's former national police chief, Ronald dela Rosa, who enforced the president's crackdown on illegal drugs, a campaign that left thousands of suspects dead and drew international condemnation.

Monday's vote is seen as a gauge of public support for Duterte, who is midway through the single six-year term Philippine presidents are allowed under the constitution. His anti-drug crackdown, unorthodox leadership style, combative and sexist joke-laden outbursts, and contentious embrace of China have been the hallmarks of his presidency.

Duterte's three children were also expected to win races for mayor, vice mayor and a congressional seat representing their southern home region of Davao city. The 74-year-old maverick leader first carved a reputation as an extra-tough mayor of the city who hunted drug addicts and criminals on a Harley Davidson motorcycle and carried the nickname Duterte Harry after the gun-slinging Clint Eastwood film character.

AP

President Rodrigo Duterte shows his forefinger with an indelible ink to prove that he has voted for the country's midterm elections in his hometown of Davao city in southern Philippines Monday, May 13, 2019.

"Undoubtedly, the Duterte magic spelled the difference," presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said in a news conference.

"The overwhelming majority of the electorate have responded to the call of the president to support those whom he said would help pass laws supportive of his goal to uplift the masses of our people and give them comfortable lives."

Manila-based analyst Ronald Holmes, however, said that except for dela Rosa and Duterte's longtime aide, Bong Go, who entered politics for the first time without their own established bases of support, other leading administration senatorial contenders earned votes based on their own political track records.

The flipside of Duterte's perceived endorsement strength was the weakness of the opposition ticket and its campaign, said Holmes, who heads Pulse Asia, an independent pollster that predicted the dominance of Duterte's senatorial bets.

Another analyst, Richard Heydarian, said many Filipinos seem more open to authoritarianism due to failures of past liberal leaders from long-established political clans. Such a mindset has helped the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos make a political comeback, the latest through the senatorial bid of one of his daughters, Imee Marcos, who was endorsed by Duterte and whose vote tally in unofficial results indicated a victory.

Duterte, who has shown little tolerance for critics, especially those who question his anti-drug campaign, aimed for stronger leverage in the traditionally more independent Senate to bolster his legislative agenda.

That includes the return of the death penalty, lowering the age for criminal liability below the current 15, and revising the country's 1987 constitution primarily to allow a shift to a federal form of government, a proposal some critics fear may be a cover to remove term limits.

Last year, opposition senators moved to block proposed bills they feared would undermine civil liberties.

The handful of incumbent opposition senators whose seats were not up for election could potentially get backing from leading independent aspirants to veto Duterte's emerging majority in the upper chamber. At least seven senators are needed to block any proposal by Duterte's camp to revise the constitution, which was passed with anti-dictatorial safeguards in 1987, a year after Marcos was ousted by an army-backed "people power" revolt.

"While we expect dissent to continue, we hope that that same be demonstrated with fairness and within the bounds of the law, as well as with deference to the leaders duly chosen by the electorate," Panelo said.

UN mission urges financial isolation of Myanmar's military

BANGKOK (AP)—A United Nations fact-finding mission urged Tuesday that countries cut off all business with Myanmar's military as part of efforts to hold the army accountable for human rights abuses.

The independent investigators, working under a mandate from the U.N. Human Rights Council, said in a statement that there has been no progress toward resolving the crisis over Myanmar's mostly Muslim Rohingya minority, more than 1 million of whom have fled military "clearance operations" in the northwest Rakhine region.

"The situation is at a total standstill," said Marzuki Darusman, chairman of the Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar.

Myanmar authorities have razed deserted Rohingya villages and members of the minority remaining in the country live in displacement camps and in fear of further military reprisals.

"Due to the gravity of the past and continuing violations, attention must be given to the political, economic and financial ties of the Myanmar military—to identify who and what should be targeted so we can cut off the money supply as a means of increasing the pressure and reducing the violence," Christopher Sidoti, a member of the mission, said in the statement.

The mission found that the military has committed atrocities against many ethnic groups living within Myanmar. It also faulted armed ethnic groups for committing human rights abuses.

Myanmar denies allegations of human rights violations in Rakhine, saying its security forces have not targeted civilians and have taken action only in response to attacks by Rohingya militants.

U.N. officials and others have likened the actions to ethnic cleansing, or even genocide.

The Fact-Finding Mission is to hand its findings to a new group of the Human Right Council, the Independent Investigative Mechanism on Myanmar, in September. That organization was set up to handle criminal prosecution of violations of international law.

The crisis in Rahkine has soured Myanmar's relations with the United States, which had rolled back economic sanctions over the past decade to support political change in the country as it transitioned toward democracy.

The U.S. Treasury has imposed sanctions on Myanmar security forces and Washington has barred Myanmar military officials involved in the Rakhine operations from U.S. assistance.

Britain has also cut some support. The U.N. and independent rights advocates want governments to do more to hold the military accountable.

No major Western powers make sales or provide aid directly to Myanmar's military. But the military has holding companies in several major civilian economic sectors, and in some cases, Western countries allow business to be done with companies in which the army holds a stake, contributing to its revenues.

Any effort to stop the flow of money to the country's military is likely to fall short because of Myanmar's close relationship with China, which maintains no sanctions and as its top trade partner accounts for about one-third of all imports and exports, in addition to being a leading investor.

China is also by far the top supplier of arms to Myanmar, according to statistics published by the Swedish International Peace Research Institute. Russia and Belarus, also without sanctions against Myanmar, were the second and third biggest suppliers of arms from 2014 to 2018, according to the institute.

World

At odds on many fronts, US and Russia hope for better ties

SOCHI, Russia (AP)—Russia and the United States voiced hope Tuesday that badly strained relations could begin to improve despite wide differences on multiple fronts and deep mutual suspicion deepened by Russian meddling in American elections.

With tensions running high over Iran, Syria, Ukraine and Venezuela, Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed vindication from the investigation into Russia's interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and said he thought it was time to move on. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo conveyed President Donald Trump's interest in restoring better ties.

In the highest-level face-to-face contact between the two countries since special counsel Robert Mueller's report was released last month, Putin told Pompeo he hoped relations with the U.S. would now improve.

Still, his claim of vindication covered only allegations that Russia and the Trump campaign colluded to hurt Hillary Clinton's candidacy. Putin did not address Mueller's conclusion that Russia actively interfered in the election.

"However exotic the work of special counsel Mueller was, I have to say that on the whole he has had a very objective investigation and he confirmed that there were no traces whatsoever of collusion between Russia and the incumbent administration, which we said was absolutely fake," Putin said as he opened the meeting with Pompeo in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

"As we said before there was no collusion from our government officials and it could not be there. Still, that was one of the reasons for the certain break in our inter-state ties," he said. "I'm hoping today that the situation is changing."

Though Putin said the Mueller report did not find collusion, the report explicitly notes that collusion is not a legal term and that prosecutors instead searched for evidence of a criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia. Mueller's team ultimately concluded that the evidence did not establish such a conspiracy.

Pompeo did not specifically mention election meddling in his brief reply to Putin, although he did say the Trump administration would "protect our nation's interest." Earlier, though, Pompeo made clear that any repeat of the 2016 meddling would not be tolerated.

"Interference in American elections is unacceptable," Pompeo told reporters at a news conference with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. "If Russia were to engage in that in 2020, it would put our relationship in an even worse place than it is. We have encouraged them not to. We wouldn't tolerate that. Our elections are important and sacred and they must be free and fair."

After meeting with Putin, Pompeo told reporters: "So it's not about moving on. It's about trying to find solutions, compromises, places where there are overlapping interests you can make progress unlocking some of the most difficult problems that are facing us."

Putin told Pompeo his recent telephone conversation with Trump raised hopes for an improvement in relations.

"As you know, not long ago, a few days ago, I had the pleasure of talking with the president of the United States by telephone," he said. "For me, it created the impression that the president intends to restore Russian-American connections and contacts to resolve joint issues that present mutual interests."

Pompeo spoke of "truly overlapping interests" that the two countries "can build on, and most importantly, President Trump very much wants to do that." He cited cooperation in Afghanistan and counterterrorism more broadly, but also a shared goal of getting North Korea to abandon nuclear weapons. But he also told Putin that "just as you will, we'll protect our nation's interest."

AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, shake hands prior to their talks in the Black Sea resort city of Sochi, southern Russia, Tuesday, May 14, 2019. Pompeo arrived in Russia for talks that are expected to focus on an array of issues including arms control and Iran.

UK's May to make new push on her Brexit deal next month

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Theresa May will try again next month to secure Parliament's backing for a Brexit deal so that the U.K. can leave the European Union this summer, May's office said Tuesday.

Downing Street said May intends to ask lawmakers to vote on a withdrawal agreement bill starting the week of June 3.

Parliament has three times rejected the divorce deal May and the EU struck late last year, laying out the terms of Britain's departure from the bloc. Brexit, long set for March 29, has been delayed until Oct. 31 while Britain's politicians try to break the deadlock.

May's office said in a statement that if lawmakers passed the bill, the U.K. could still leave the EU "before the summer Parliamentary recess," which is likely to start in late July.

But it is far from clear how the government plans to persuade a majority of lawmakers to back May's EU divorce terms, since few legislators on either side of the Brexit divide seem prepared to change their positions.

And approving the bill, which implements the terms of Britain's departure, does not remove the need for Parliament to separately ratify the thrice-rejected EU withdrawal deal.

The government calculates that if a majority of lawmakers can be persuaded to approve the legislation on Brexit terms, they will then back the deal as well.

Ministers also hope that the process of debating—and potentially amending—the bill will help lawmakers reach a form of Brexit a majority can support.

But that looks like a long-shot. May's Conservative government has held weeks of talks with the opposition Labour Party in an attempt to reach a compromise on some of the major sticking points, but so far without signs of much progress.

The two sides do not agree on how close an economic relationship the U.K. should have with the EU after Brexit. Both May and Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn are under strong pressure from their party members not to make concessions to their rivals.

However, neither side wants to be the one to pull the plug on negotiations.

May and Corbyn met for face-to-face talks Tuesday. Downing Street said the meeting was "useful and constructive." Their representatives are set to continue the talks Wednesday.

But Labour sounded pessimistic about the chances of a breakthrough. The party said in a statement Tuesday night that Corbyn expressed concerns to May "about the prime minister's ability to deliver on any compromise agreement."

Labour said Corbyn "raised doubts over the credibility of government commitments." The party fears any promises from May could be undone by her successor. The prime minister is under immense pressure from Conservative lawmakers to quit because she failed to lead Britain out of the EU on schedule.

May has said she will resign once a Brexit deal is approved and make way for a new leader to guide the U.K. through the next stage—talks with the EU on future relations.

Many Conservative lawmakers are pressing her to be more specific and to name a date for her departure.

WORLD BRIEFS

Floods renew fear in Bosnia; boy missing after fall in creek

BEGOV HAN, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)—A 6-year-old boy who fell into a swollen creek on his bicycle remained missing after floods hit parts of Bosnia on Tuesday, raising fears the Balkan country could see a repeat of the record flooding that killed at least 23 people and affected about a third of the population five years ago. The child was riding over a small wooden bridge outside his home when he fell into the water along with his bike, the boy's uncle told The Associated Press. "His mother tried to save him. She jumped into the water," Sanel Meseljevic said, his voice trembling. "We also went in and searched....We couldn't find him. We don't know where he is, if he was swept away ... or he is still somewhere in the creek." Rescue teams in the central village of Begov Han spent hours looking for the boy and found the bicycle before calling off the search for the day, local media reported. Torrential rains that started on Sunday caused rivers in northwestern and central Bosnia to break their banks, flooding homes and roads. Local authorities in several areas urged residents living close to rivers to evacuate their homes and launched emergency measures to respond to the rising flood waters. A number of schools canceled classes, while electricity and water supplies were disrupted. Landslides closed local roads.

3 Germans in crossbow deaths killed by shots to hearts, neck

BERLIN (AP)—Autopsies showed three people found dead at a German hotel with crossbow bolts lodged in their bodies died from those wounds, but police said Tuesday there was no sign of a struggle or the involvement of others. Investigators said a 53-year-old man and a 33-year-old woman found holding hands in a hotel bed in Passau, near the Austrian border, on Saturday each died from one bolt to the heart. A 30-year-old woman found on the floor died from a shot to the neck. Police said they found wills for the man and the woman in the bed. They gave no details of what was in the documents, saying the contents and the woman's white pickup truck are part of the ongoing investigation. Authorities also are awaiting test results that would show whether the three had consumed alcohol or drugs. The evidence suggests the younger woman first shot the other two and then herself and the deaths appeared to be a case of "killing on demand" or suicide, German news agency dpa quoted prosecutors as saying. There are still no signs that anyone else was involved in the slayings.

Environment

In fight to shield coral reefs from warming oceans, U.S. and Australian experts join forces

By MICHAEL WILNER
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

PORT DOUGLAS, Australia — Marine biologists in Australia and the United States are joining forces to resuscitate two of the world's major coral reef systems along their coastlines threatened by rising ocean temperatures and extreme weather.

In their two sunshine states, Queensland and Florida, experts have turned their focus from conservation to restoration at the Great Barrier Reef and Florida Reef, where entire colonies of coral life have been bleached or killed.

Biologists working to restore both systems are sharing data and experimenting with forms of coral that appear resilient to warming waters. They have convened three major workshops in Cairns, Townsville and Miami over six months in an effort to expedite their efforts.

At least one prominent figure in the Australian biology community, the chief scientist for the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, is calling for a structured program between the National Science Foundation and the Australian Research Council that would formalize a joint effort of the two countries.

"There's no question that our methodology for coral restoration developed in America," said Peter Mumby, the chief scientist. "There's a long history of Australians and Americans working together on this, but right now we are collaborating closely with the Americans on techniques they've developed for propagating coral."

While the focus of Australian scientists had been on conservation over many years, two consecutive mass bleaching events in 2016 and 2017 shook the community into action.

Bleaching occurs when coral expel algae in response to an increase in sea temperatures. The algae provide coral with their color, and so without it the coral are left bone white.

In the Florida and wider Caribbean reef systems, bleaching began years earlier than at the Great Barrier Reef, forcing American experts to lead the way on restoration technologies.

Experts in both countries say that the sheer scale of the Great Barrier Reef– roughly the size of Italy, or the length of the U.S. eastern seaboard– makes coral engineering a far more challenging task there, and warn that techniques being pioneered in the United States might not be directly applicable in Australia. And while the Caribbean system only hosts a handful of coral species – making the ecosystem generally less resilient– the Great Barrier Reef has over 100 species.

But Mumby said that coral experts in the Florida Keys contributed valuable insight to a $6 million Australian research project on the biology, ethics and feasibility of large-scale coral restoration efforts. The findings of that research were recently reported to Australia's federal government, which — after elections are held this weekend — will decide how much of $100 million in principle funding to allocate to further coral restoration efforts.

Florida-based scientists shared their findings at the Townsville workshop on the genetics of coral under stress, examining what makes for resiliency on a biological level — critical to understanding which corals might survive consistently warmer waters, according to Mumby, who was in Fort Lauderdale for another round of meetings as recently as February.

A 2017 conference in Australia attended by prominent American scientists led to a much closer working relationship between the two countries, according to Tom Moore, the coral reef restoration program manager at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"There's always been great collaboration between NOAA and Australia, but historically, folks in Australia weren't working on restoration as much as traditional management," Moore told McClatchy. "They're a little bit late to the game, but they come to it very well prepared and resourced and fully engaged."

While roughly a third of all corals on the Great Barrier Reef, the largest reef system in the world, have bleached or died in the past decade, Moore says that 90-95% of corals on the Florida Reef are already dead.

"Manual work in a gardening-like way won't cut it on an ecosystem level — we're working together to figure out an industrial-scale effort," Moore added. "We're working on assisted evolution methods to create coral that's more resilient to more hostile oceans, to warmer oceans, and to diseases."

At the Agincourt ribbon reef, part of the Great Barrier Reef system off the coast of Port Douglas, healthy and vibrant coral were still visible to tourists. The largest share of Queensland's economy comes from tourism — according to state data the reef draws 2 million visitors a year and brings in $6 billion in tourism dollars.

Tourism operators, in both Australia and Florida, have been slow to acknowledge threats to the reef out of fear they will scare away visitors.

"We're not going to sugarcoat it — the reef is under threat, and something needs to be done," said Greg Hoare, a chief marine biologist for Quicksilver, one of Queensland's leading tourism operators. "If we suppress the idea that the reef is under threat or imperiled, people will walk away from the day thinking, 'wow, that was beautiful,' but they won't have that sort of urge to help conserve what they saw for future generations."

Hoare said that Quicksilver is conducting experiments at its reef sites with the approval of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park focused on rehabilitation, and acknowledged that Australia had only recently shifted its focus to restorative efforts.

In one experiment, the team is operating a control site with coral growing along a meshed device at its own rate. At another nearby, in similar temperatures, they are growing coral on mesh housing pulsing with electrical currents that are meant to increase the growth rate threefold.

"We've fragmented colonies of corals that have already shown resilience," Hoare continued. "We've isolated areas that have shown resilience and are working to aid the corals in their growth."

Across the marine biology community, focus has shifted toward perfecting resiliency efforts that can be scaled up to meet the size and scope of the challenge ahead. Moore says that these "assisted evolution methods" are the world's best chance to save these ecosystems, home to one quarter of all marine life.

Mumby says that a formalized relationship between the two countries' national science foundations would appropriately elevate their strong working ties.

"They've been able to come to the table with a lot more resources, and we will benefit from the work they're doing," Moore said of the Australians. "Reefs of the future are going to be different than today — we have to accept that. We won't win the fight everywhere. But we'll succeed in some places, with help."

TNS

This file photo taken on Sept. 22, 2014, shows fish swimming through the coral on Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Populations of marine mammals, birds, reptiles and fish have dropped by about half in the past four decades, with fish critical to human food suffering some of the greatest declines.

Life & Style

12 lessons from 'The Big Bang Theory'

By ELLEN GRAY
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Johnny Galecki, from left, Jim Parsons, Kaley Cuoco, Simon Helberg, Kunal Nayyar, Mayim Bialik and Melissa Rauch, cast members of the TV series "The Big Bang Theory," pose at a hand and footprint ceremony at the TCL Chinese Theatre on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at in Los Angeles. AP

"The Big Bang Theory" did not start off with a bang 12 seasons ago.

Its first season was abbreviated by a 100-day writers' strike and ended with the CBS comedy ranked 68th in the Nielsens for 2007-08.

As the show about Caltech scientists and their friends and families wraps up its 279-episode run with a two-episode finale on Thursday, May 16, it's television's most-watched comedy.

And deservedly so.

I wasn't so sure in 2007, when I included 'Big Bang' in a fall preview list of shows "that might improve on further acquaintance." I'd likened Kaley Cuoco's not yet fully developed character, Penny, to "Three's Company's" Chrissy, but noted that I'd been told, "Caltech physics students have seen some of the math on display in the pilot and deemed it not out of line. And (co-creator Chuck) Lorre, who also created 'Two and a Half Men,' has been known to work wonders with fractions."

I was right about the math, at least.

It's not every sitcom that hires—or needs—a science consultant, but UCLA physics professor David Saltzberg has kept the whiteboards up to academic standards and helped writers fill in blanks in dialogue that requires a scientific twist.

I'm not sure how much physics most of us have learned in the last 12 years, but there are plenty of other takeaways from the success of "The Big Bang Theory":

1 It can take time to grow a hit. "I've been really fortunate" to get that time, Lorre said when I visited the show's Warner Bros. set with a group of reporters in February. "We got to learn about what the show was by doing the show, by making the show. The show taught us what it was. The audience taught us what it was."

2 There's a lot to be said for an expanding universe. Lorre said he never considered Penny dumb, just more socially and emotionally adept than her male neighbors, Sheldon Cooper (Jim Parsons) and Leonard Hofstadter (Johnny Galecki), and their friends Raj Koothrappali (Temple grad Kunal Nayyar) and Howard Wolowitz (Simon Helberg). But she did seem to get smarter, and adding more women to the mix—particularly Mayim Bialik as neurobiologist Amy Farrah Fowler and Melissa Rauch as microbiologist Bernadette Rostenkowski—both added to the comedy and made Penny's differences seem less about gender. "We saw where we'd fallen short," Lorre said. "We saw where we hadn't really done our jobs, and we tried to broaden the show. Legitimately, not pandering. But female scientists—of course. You know, duh."

3 Smart humor and bathroom humor can coexist. The same show that brought on Nobel laureates Kip Thorne, George Smoot, and Frances Arnold to play themselves in an episode in April has never been above the kind of jokes about bodily functions that speak to a lot of people's inner 8-year-olds.

4 We like to watch families. The casting of, and writing for, the main characters' parents—starting with Laurie Metcalf and Christine Baranski's guest shots as Sheldon and Leonard's mothers—has done a lot to explain how they came to be who they are. But even before the show started pairing off its characters, they'd formed a family. "The lesson I've learned over and over again, going back to when I was a writer on Roseanne (is that) all these shows that work seem to have an underlying theme of family and affection... whether or not it's biological relations or friendships," Lorre said. "Even Seinfeld, where the characters were constructed, I think, to be abrasive, they were there for each other."

5 There's a place on television for brilliant people who don't solve crimes or cure the sick. With all due respect to Sherlock Holmes (both the CBS and PBS versions) and ABC's "The Good Doctor," it's nice to see people with high IQs having a few other options.

6 Not every difference requires a label. Is Sheldon on the autism spectrum or is he just quirky? In resisting a diagnosis, the writers forced us to deal with him as a character, not a condition. Not everyone's happy with that decision—and I understand the desire for representation—but it did keep him from being frozen in place in the minds of people who might not have believed progress is possible for someone with his challenges. "What happens in this show over 12 years is that these people around him socialized him," Lorre said, identifying the episode in which Sheldon hugged Penny after she gave him a napkin signed by Leonard Nimoy as a turning point. "Because these people never gave up on him, he became more dimensional." At the same time, "he's still Sheldon. And that's the magic trick of TV comedy. ... Archie Bunker has to stay Archie Bunker."

7 It's not just the guest stars—it's how the guest stars are used. Casting physicist Stephen Hawking as himself was a coup, but making him part of the comedy was a triumph.

8 It's never too late to get Bob Newhart an Emmy. As crazy as it is that the comedy legend, nominated nine times, won his first (and so far only) Emmy for his first appearance as Sheldon and Leonard's childhood idol "Professor Proton," it's no accident that he chose to guest-star on this show. "Chuck (Lorre) and I have been talking about this for a long time, and we (could) never agree on the show," Newhart told me in a 2013 interview. "I wasn't a big fan of 'Two and a Half Men,' but I am a big fan of 'The Big Bang Theory,' and I thought it was extremely well-written and it's done in front of a live audience, and those were the two requirements that I had."

9 It's OK to end the will they/won't they suspense. Maybe it didn't work on "Cheers" or "Moonlighting," but the story of Leonard and Penny is a happier, funnier one. As Galecki told reporters in February, he never worried when the characters married, because most of the show's writers are married, "so they were able to bring their own life experiences to Leonard and Penny's relationship. ... The same way when Bernadette and Howard had a baby—you know, the majority of the writers are parents, as well. They get to bring that side of their lives now into the show."

10 How science works. Though I can't begin to explain Sheldon and Amy's "super asymmetry" theory—and not just because it apparently isn't real—I appreciate the glimpses we get of the not terribly glamorous aspects of scientific discovery, like checking citations and chasing funding. Off screen, the show has expressed its appreciation by helping to underwrite the educations of UCLA students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through the Big Bang Scholarship Endowment.

11 The Oscars and the Emmys aren't the only awards people get worked up about. I don't know whether they'll win, but Sheldon and Amy's quest for a Nobel Prize in physics has been as eye-opening as it's been hilarious.

12 It's best to leave people laughing. Twelve seasons—and a lifetime, perhaps, in syndication—is better than letting the audience exit first.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Judge: Cosby accusers' testimony points to 'signature' crime

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The judge who presided over Bill Cosby's criminal case said he let five other accusers testify at the sex-assault trial because their accounts had "chilling similarities" that pointed to a "signature" crime. A jury last year convicted Cosby of drugging and sexually assaulting Andrea Constand in 2004, after hearing from her and the five others. Cosby, 81, is appealing his conviction. Cosby began serving a three- to 10-year prison term in September at a state prison near Philadelphia.

Disney takes over Hulu from Comcast as stream wars heat up

NEW YORK (AP)—Disney is taking full control of Hulu from Comcast, as both companies prepare to launch their own streaming services in response to declining audiences for traditional TV. The companies said Tuesday that Comcast, which owns a third of Hulu, can sell its stake to Disney starting in 2024, for a minimum of $5.8 billion. Until then, Comcast will be a silent investor.

Former manager charged with abuse of Marvel's Stan Lee

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A former business manager of Stan Lee has been charged in California with five counts of elder abuse involving the late Marvel Comics mastermind. A request for a restraining order filed last year by Lee's daughter alleged Keya Morgan was manipulating the mentally declining Lee, preventing him from seeing family and friends, and trying to take control of his money and business affairs. The felony charges filed Friday by Los Angeles County prosecutors against the 43-year-old Morgan include theft, embezzlement, forgery or fraud against an elder adult, and false imprisonment of an elder adult. A misdemeanor count also alleges elder abuse. The charges date to June, when Morgan was working closely with Lee, who died in November. A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Morgan.

Claude Monet haystack painting fetches $110.7M at NY auction

NEW YORK (AP)—One of Claude Monet's iconic paintings of haystacks has fetched a record $110.7 million at an auction in New York. Monet's "Meules" sold at Sotheby's sale of Impressionist & Modern Art Tuesday night. The auction house says it's a world auction record for the artist and the first work of Impressionist art to cross the $100 million threshold at auction. The 1890 painting is one of only four works from Monet's acclaimed "Haystacks" series to come to auction this century, and one of only eight examples remaining in private hands.

'Avenger: Endgame' seeks top honors at MTV Movie & TV Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Avengers: Endgame," "Game of Thrones" and "RBG" are the top nominees heading into next month's MTV Movie & TV Awards.

The network announced Tuesday that the three titles each garnered four nominations for the awards show, which will air June 17. The show will also introduce new categories including reality royalty, most meme-able moment and best real-life hero.

"Endgame" will compete for best movie against "BlacKkKlansman," "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," "Us" and "To All the Boys I've Loved Before." The Marvel superhero film also earned nods for stars Robert Downey Jr. and Josh Brolin.

The Oscar-nominated "RBG," which focused on the life of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, is nominated for best documentary, most meme-able moment and inaugural real-life hero. The film will also face "Endgame" and HBO's "Game of Thrones" for best fight.

"Game of Thrones" is up for best show along with nominations for Maisie Williams and Emilia Clarke.

"Shazam" star Zachary Levi will host the show, which will be held in Santa Monica, California. The actor is also nominated for best hero and best comedic performance.

'Game of Thrones' showrunners behind next 'Star Wars' film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A piece of the "Star Wars" puzzle has just fallen into place.

Walt Disney Co. CEO Bob Iger says Tuesday that "Game of Thrones" showrunners David Benioff and D.B. Weiss are working on the new "Star Wars" film expected in theaters in December 2022.

Iger revealed the information at the MoffettNathanson Media & Communications Summit in New York. He also said he would not be commenting further.

The company had previously announced that "The Last Jedi" director Rian Johnson, separately, and Benioff and Weiss were working on new "Star Wars" films but it wasn't clear whose would come first.

Both, however, are expected to be separate from the Skywalker saga which will wrap up this December with J.J. Abrams' "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker."

Without Luke Perry, 'Beverly Hills, 90210' cast preps reboot

NEW YORK (AP)—At an event promoting the upcoming slate of Fox shows, the cast of the "Beverly Hills, 90210" reboot remembered their castmate Luke Perry, who died earlier this year.

"Luke was a huge part of our '90210' family, and personally Luke was a very large part of my life," Jason Priestly said. "So, it's obviously very difficult to do this without him."

Entitled "BH90210," the new show isn't a continuation of the series. Having gone their separate ways after the series ended nearly 20 years ago, the actors return as heightened versions of themselves.

In addition to Priestley, original stars Jennie Garth, Ian Ziering, Gabrielle Carteris, Brian Austin Green and Tori Spelling were in New York to promote the new show, set for a summer debut.

"The show is comedic drama, very, very heavy on the comedy side. It's a scripted, fake reality show that follows Jason Priestly and Ian Ziering and Jennie Garth, all of us trying to get a reboot of 'Beverly Hills 90210' made, and what that entails," Priestley said.

"Very much like 'Episodes.' A little bit of 'Arrested Development' thrown in there. A little bit of 'Curb Your Enthusiasm' thrown in there. But very much in the vein of those shows."

While most of the original cast will return, there is a void after the passing of Luke Perry in March. Ziering said he's still processing his grief.

"I'm still having trouble reconciling that, so I don't have an answer for you. It's difficult. He was a good friend of mine," he said.

Garth added: "He's been with us every step of the way."

AP

Tori Spelling, from left, Jason Priestley, Gabrielle Carteris, Ian Ziering, Jennie Garth and Brian Austin Green, from the cast of "BH90210," attend the FOX 2019 Upfront party at Wollman Rink in Central Park on Monday, May 13, 2019, in New York.

ABC: Constance Wu's 'Fresh Off the Boat' job safe after rant

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC's entertainment president said "Fresh Off the Boat" star Constance Wu's job is safe despite her online rant.

The "Crazy Rich Asians" star posted an expletive-filled complaint last week when the comedy's renewal was announced.

No thought was given to recasting Wu's role as the sitcom's mom, network executive Karey Burke told a teleconference Tuesday.

Burke said she's choosing to believe Wu's most recent comment, that she's happy to return to "Fresh Off the Boat."

But pitching ABC's lineup to advertisers later Tuesday, the network executive couldn't resist a dig. "Fresh Off the Boat" will air Friday nights, Burke said, "still starring Constance Wu."

Wu has apologized for what she called "insensitive" comments and said she loves the sitcom. She said she was temporarily frustrated that it would keep her from working on a passion project.

Burke said she knew Wu had another opportunity if the show ended, but ABC always intended to renew it for a sixth season.

First 10 nations advance to this year's Eurovision final

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—The first semifinal of the Eurovision Song Contest came to a close late Tuesday, sending 10 countries' acts to the Grand Final and seven others home.

Contestants from Australia, Iceland, Greece, Belarus, Serbia, Cyprus, Estonia, Czech Republic, San Marino and Slovenia moved ahead after televotes trickled in, with much suspense, from all 41 countries in the contest. The national votes are split between a professional jury and phone-in viewers.

Tuesday's round dashed the dreams of performers from Montenegro, Finland, Poland, Hungary, Georgia, Portugal and Belgium.

The show, replete with its characteristic camp, featured a dizzying array of acts, from the grinding metal rock of Iceland's steampunk band to the catchy pop of the scantily clad Cypriot singer.

Australia's breathy act, "Zero Gravity," by Kate Miller-Heidke, which showcased dancers' fancy footwork on stilts, and Greece's upbeat "Better Love" performed by Katerine Duska, are considered two of the competition's frontrunners.

Thousands of fans packed the Tel Aviv hall, waving flags and cheering patriotically. The enthusiastic atmosphere appeared free of recent politics that many in Israel feared would spoil the festivities.

Man's gender transition jolts couples' longtime friendship

DEAR ABBY: My longtime friend of 30 years, "Charlotte," lives across the country. I have just learned that her husband, "Harold," is transgender and is now transitioning to become "Helen."

When they come, they always stay with us for several days because they can't afford a hotel. My husband is now very uncomfortable with them staying here or being seen out in public with them. Is there a way to tell Charlotte to come alone and still save the friendship? Or should I let them come and deal with my husband's feelings, which I think are unjust?

UNJUST IN THE WEST

DEAR UNJUST: Talk to your husband and explain that he doesn't have to socialize more than he is comfortable with if your friends visit. If he still refuses, why don't you and he visit THEM this year? You could stay in a hotel while you adjust to the adjustment Harold is making.

I assume that your husband and Harold were friendly before. Perhaps if he and Harold have a chance to talk, your husband can get past his discomfort. It could be a valuable learning experience for him. Your support at this time would be a tremendous gift to this couple.

DEAR ABBY: My 22-year-old sister is unhealthily fixated on a particular cable TV channel. She will only watch this channel and is obsessed with the love stories and relationship movies. This goes far beyond a simple "like" for something, and I'm afraid she's using it as a way to avoid developing real relationships. She has few friends and has never been in a relationship. I have tried to get her to stop watching it, but it never ends well. How can I help her move away from the television set and into the real world?

FANTASY VS. REALITY IN FLORIDA

DEAR F. VS. R.: Watching romantic movies with guaranteed happy endings (if only life were really like that!) is your sister's "safe" way of vicariously enjoying idealized relationships. Continue encouraging her to take some risk and join the real world by inviting her to join you in social groups. But until she realizes for herself that she needs to do it, it won't happen. Counseling could help her, but she won't accept it until she admits to herself that she needs help to develop the social skills she lacks and is willing to reach out for it.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating my boyfriend for six months, and in many ways he's a great guy. One thing that irks me, though, is his tardiness.

This man can't show up on time to save his life. I have arrived at his house for a date only to find he has not even arrived at his own home yet. He is usually 30-plus minutes late for our get-togethers.

I have brought this up many times, and at this point I feel like a nag, but it's SO disrespectful and rude to treat others this way. I'm annoyed to the point that I may break up with him for this reason only. Is my reaction well-founded?

EARLY IN OREGON

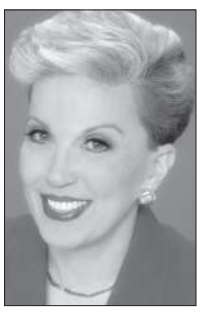
DEAR EARLY: Your boyfriend is either extremely disorganized or just plain rude. If he hasn't been able to change his pattern in six months, he isn't likely to do it. You can, however, change the way you react to it.

Because you know he runs late, make your plans accordingly so you won't be kept waiting. However, if you can't do that, then rather than let it continue to stress you out, end the romance.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HI, CALVIN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MAKING PAPER HATS? CAN I MAKE ONE, TOO?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. THIS IS THE OFFICIAL CHAPEAU OF OUR TOP-SECRET CLUB, G.R.O.S.S. – GET RID OF SLIMY GIRLS!
"SLIMY GIRLS"?!
I KNOW THAT'S REDUNDANT, BUT OTHERWISE IT DOESN'T SPELL ANYTHING. NOW GO AWAY.
GIRLS AREN'T SLIMY!
DON'T GET GUNK ON ME. I TOOK A BATH LAST SATURDAY AND I'M ALL CLEAN.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OW!
WHA?
I... LOOK! THAT SQUIRREL THREW AN ACORN AT ME!
LISTEN, BUSTER! ARF! ARF! ARF!
THAT WORKS WHEN GUMBO DOES IT. LET ME TRY IT LOUDER.
SIGH.
5-16

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

"SHELL-SHOCKED SUGAR SNACKS."
"THE BREAKFAST CEREAL OF ATHLETES."
"THE AMOUNT OF SUGAR WILL MAKE YOUR HEART RACE AS IF YOU RAN A MARATHON."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

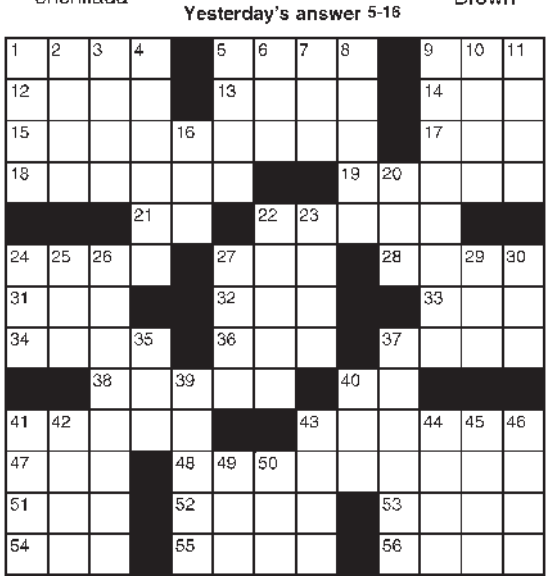
ACROSS
1 Blunder
5 Sir's partner
9 Witty one
12 Massage target
13 Lamb alias
14 "Evil Woman" gp.
15 Dairy aisle purchase
17 Zodiac feline
18 Indiana city
19 TV's De-Generes
21 Rejection
22 — buddy
24 Bears' hands
27 Candy-heart word
28 Ashen
31 "— Believer"
32 Epoch
33 Actress Ruby
34 Attire
36 The whole enchilada
37 Barking mammal
38 Dark and gloomy
40 "I see"
41 "Shrek" princess
43 Scents
47 Adj. modifier
48 Canning jar feature
51 King, in Cannes
52 Tale teller
53 "Woe —!"
54 World Cup cheer
55 China (Pref.)
56 Legend-ary loch

DOWN
1 Stare stupidly
2 Twice cuatro
3 "Hmm, I guess so"
4 Criminals
5 Office note
6 "The Greatest"
7 Be sick
8 "This — no sense!"
9 Built to last
10 Downwind
11 Thug
16 Punk-rock subgenre
20 Prune
22 Strapping
23 Track shape
24 Pot-bellied pet
25 Docs' bloc
26 "Dunkirk" or "Platoon," e.g.
27 Faucet problem
29 Meadow
30 Snaky fish
35 Chignon
37 Sure winner
39 "Lady Love" singer Lou
40 Branch
41 Gambling game
42 Pedestal occupant
43 Sleek, in car lingo
44 Inspira-tion
45 $ dis-pensers
46 Females
49 Sundial numeral
50 Author Brown

Solution time: 24 mins.

B	A	I	L	■	C	O	P	■	H	E	R	A
E	L	S	A	■	A	D	S	■	O	V	A	L
L	O	M	B	A	R	D	Y	■	R	E	S	P
T	E	L	O	T	■	C	H	I	P	P	S	■
■	■	■	R	E	A	■	H	A	Z	E	■	■
L	O	B	■	W	R	Y	■	L	O	A	T	S
S	O	U	P	■	E	R	G	■	N	O	A	K
D	O	R	I	S	■	S	A	C	■	Y	A	Y
■	■	■	G	R	A	M	■	L	O	S	■	■
I	G	U	A	N	A	■	L	L	M	B	A	R
P	A	N	T	■	J	E	O	P	A	P	D	Y
C	L	D	E	■	C	O	P	■	S	I	D	E
D	A	Y	S	■	R	N	S	■	H	E	S	S

Yesterday's answer 5-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Megan Fox, 33; Tori Spelling, 46; Janet Jackson, 53; Pierce Brosnan, 66.

Happy Birthday: Strive for perfection. Put your reputation and status on the line, and show everyone what you are capable of doing. You will reach your goal if you are diligent about the way you go about doing things. Don't question others; concentrate on whatever it will take to follow through with your plans. Control ego and emotions, and avoid mistakes. Your numbers are 1, 13, 19, 28, 34, 43, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Participate in events that are geared toward spending time with friends, relatives or peers. What you discover by working alongside others to achieve a common goal will encourage you to make personal changes to the way or where you live. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't settle for less or give in to someone who is trying to talk you out of your hard-earned cash or pushing you to settle for something you don't want. Speak up, and make the changes that will make you happy. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take pride in what you do. Look for opportunities to use your skills differently. Consider a partnership carefully. Don't give in to pressure or get involved with anyone who asks for too much. A personal change should not be made in haste. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't let anger take over when you should be channeling your energy into something more constructive. If you want to make a change, look inward and make positive personal adjustments instead of trying to change someone else. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Trust and believe in yourself, not someone who is looking out for his or her own interest. Put your faith and your energy into making physical changes or improving your living arrangements. Creating a peaceful environment at home will ease stress. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take part in events that can help you advance or offer valuable information and knowledge. A consistent and reliable approach will help you build a strong brand. Romance is on the rise, and including someone special in your plans is encouraged. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Share only enough information to avoid getting into trouble. Listen to offers, but negotiate on your own behalf. A change at home should be kept within budget. Do what you can before calling in paid help. A relative will offer insight. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Keep moving forward. Make positive changes that excite you and give you reason to follow your heart and pursue your dreams. A steady pace and a willful mind will bring you to the place you want to be. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't give in to hogwash. Don't take an expensive detour; stay on course until you reach your destination. Put your money in a safe place, and keep your personal information well hidden. Be realistic when offering help or making promises. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* How you handle personal matters will make a difference to how well you do personally and professionally. Achieving greater stability and security will put you at ease and lead to improved relationships. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Size up whatever situation you face, and be reluctant to put your money into something that will benefit someone else. Know your strengths and weaknesses, and focus on doing what you do best. Make fitness and health priorities. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You can be optimistic without being foolish. When it comes to financial matters, stick to what you can afford, and don't let anyone coax you into excessive situations. If you want to make a change, start with self-improvement. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, proactive and sensitive. You are romantic and charming.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8			4		7			1
				1				
	3	2				5	7	
3				4				7
	1						6	
5				8				9
	2	8				4	5	
				2				
4			6		9			2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	8	2	7	5	1	6	9	4
7	4	9	2	6	3	5	8	1
5	1	6	4	8	9	3	7	2
6	5	4	3	7	8	2	1	9
1	2	7	9	4	5	8	6	3
9	3	8	6	1	2	7	4	5
8	9	1	5	2	7	4	3	6
2	6	3	8	9	4	1	5	7
4	7	5	1	3	6	9	2	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WHAT IS HIP? Solution: 10 letters

Y	H	S	O	P	T	N	E	R	R	U	C	R	N	C
R	S	A	V	S	D	A	F	A	N	C	Y	E	O	L
O	E	S	L	H	H	S	I	L	Y	T	S	N	I	O
S	R	C	A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E	T	G	H	T
S	F	I	I	L	R	A	N	P	T	E	W	I	S	H
E	R	S	C	O	C	E	N	O	M	I	F	S	A	E
C	S	U	O	O	G	A	N	P	L	P	U	E	F	S
C	H	M	S	C	E	M	O	D	E	R	N	D	A	P
A	R	I	A	L	C	R	A	Z	E	E	K	L	T	E
L	M	E	C	R	A	S	E	O	H	S	Y	O	T	C
A	O	A	A	R	T	A	W	A	R	E	L	B	R	I
E	D	G	Y	T	D	A	S	H	I	N	G	I	A	A
P	I	T	C	N	I	T	S	I	D	T	E	R	C	L
P	S	H	A	R	P	V	O	G	U	E	D	W	T	K
A	H	U	N	I	Q	U	E	L	E	G	A	N	T	E

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Accessory. Appeal. Attitude. Attract. Aware. Bold. Chic. Classy. Clean. Clothes. Contemporary. Cool. Craze. Creative. Current. Dashing. Designer. Distinct. Edgy. Elegant. Fads. Fancy. Fashion. Fresh. Funky. Hair. Modern. Modish. Music. New. Popular. Posh. Present. Sharp. Shoes. Slick. Smart. Social. Special. Stylish. Trend. Unique. Vogue. Wild

Yesterday's Answer: Playing

The NEW **Volume 56** can be purchased online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

RFQ NO.: RFQ19-JUDICIARY-068

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 10, 2019 • TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"ARCHITECT-ENGINEER SERVICES ROOF, WALLS, WINDOWS, DOORS, AND VESTIBULE FOR THE GUMA' HUSTISIA, IIMWAL AWEEWE, HOUSE OF JUSTICE SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT REQUIREMENT AND APPOINTMENT REQUESTS MUST BE IN WRITING E-MAILED TO **MR. JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ, CNMI JUDICIARY BUDGET & FINANCE DIRECTOR** TO john.villagomez@justice.gov.mp WITHIN AT LEAST THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE FOR QUALIFICATIONS STATEMENT SUBMISSION.

A **PRE-SUBMISSION MEETING** IS SCHEDULED FOR **09:30 A.M., LOCAL TIME, MAY 29, 2019** AT THE **GUMA' HUSTISIA ASSEMBLY HALL.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG	/s/ JOAQUIN S. REYES	/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
SECRETARY OF FINANCE	ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S	CHIEF JUSTICE

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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2019

Opening date: April 29, 2019 Closing date: May 17, 2019

Positions:
(1) Receptionist/Secretary (Saipan)
(1) BHS Technician (Saipan)
(1) Assistant Custodial Supervisor (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport is no later than **5:00 pm on Friday, May 17, 2019.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or hrspecialist@cpa.gov.mp by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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Executive Director

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WHATZIT Solution: Three Men in a Boat

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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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PGA a new major challenge for Woods

AP
Tiger Woods speaks to the media during a press conference prior to the 2019 PGA Championship at the Bethpage Black course on May 14, 2019 in Bethpage, New York.

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP)— Tiger Woods, the Masters champion, going for the second leg of the Grand Slam on a long, wet course at Bethpage Black.

It all sounds so familiar.

For Woods, it feels entirely different.

The PGA Championship now occupies the second slot in the major championship schedule given its move to May for the first time since 1949, and with only a month between majors, Woods chose not to play a tournament since winning his fifth green jacket.

He is every bit the global superstar he was in 2002 when he followed a Masters victory with a U.S. Open title at Bethpage Black, but he is not No. 1 in the world. And along with being 43, he is two years removed from fusion surgery on his lower back, and some days he doesn't move as well as others.

"There's more days I feel older than my age than I do younger than my age," Woods said.

The new version of an older Tiger is more than capable.

He showed that last September when he won the Tour Championship at East Lake, his first victory since going through four back surgeries. And he showed in April, with his 15th major, that he was capable of challenging the Jack Nicklaus standard of 18 majors.

Still to be determined is whether Woods can be the dominant force he had been for a dozen years.

"I'm not looking at it like that," Woods said. "Whether I'm dominant or not going forward, that remains to be seen. What I know is I need to give myself the best chance to win the events I play in, and sometimes that can be taking a little bit more breaks here and there, and making sure that I am ready to go and being able to give it my best at those events."

Of the top 10 players in the world, Woods (No. 6) and Bryson DeChambeau (No. 8) are the only ones who have not played since the Masters.

This will be only the seventh time that Woods has gone major to major without having played somewhere in between, with mixed results. The most famous was in 2008 when he showed up at Torrey Pines for the U.S. Open on a shattered left leg and won in a playoff.

What held him back this time was emotional exhaustion from a moment in golf that won't be soon forgotten. Lucas Glover had gone to the movies, taped the final round and was teary-eyed at the end, especially when Woods hugged his son. Brooks Koepka, whose last hope ended when he missed a 10-foot birdie putt on the 18th, recalls being in the scoring area, unable to keep his eyes off the TV.

"I think it's something that any player, any fan, any golfer was probably glued to the TV at that moment watching it," Koepka said. "It was pretty neat, pretty special for all of us. I was a little bit disappointed. But at the same time, that's what our sport needed. We needed him to win a major."

How about another?

Koepka isn't about to concede. Bethpage Black, which figures to play even longer than its 7,459 yards in soft conditions, is suited for good drivers like Koepka, Dustin Johnson and Rory McIlroy.

Woods couldn't reach the green on the par-4 seventh hole with a 3-wood on Monday. Johnson got there with a 3-iron, though he gave it all he had.

Woods now relies as much on his experience as brute strength, though he remains long enough.

Woods declared himself "rested and ready" after his month away from competition. He says he spent time in the gym and didn't get back to the grind until he was ready, which was just over two weeks ago.

He came to Bethpage Black last week for 18 holes, a long round that tried to cover every detail of how to handle the course. He figured out quickly that driving will be paramount because of the elevated green and the lush, wet rough. Woods played nine holes Monday, spent Tuesday practicing on the range and chipping area, and planned to play nine holes Wednesday.

"This is not only a big golf course, but this is going to be a long week the way the golf course is set up and potentially could play," he said. "This could be a hell of a championship.

Koepka has confidence of an elite player

Woods spent a half-hour answering all sorts of questions at a packed news conference Tuesday. As he walked out, so did more than half of the media members who gathered to hear his every word.

Koepka then immediately entered the room. Koepka is the titleholder of the PGA Championship and has won the last two U.S. Opens. To use a phrase familiar in these parts of Long Island, he is not exactly chopped liver.

That's the way it goes for one of the favorites at long and, for now, very wet Bethpage Black.

Not that Koepka cares much about the attention, at least not until folks are cheering for the guy lifting the Wanamaker Trophy. Just the way they did last June about 60 miles east of Bethpage when he outlasted everyone at Shinnecock Hills for his second straight U.S. Open victory . He is trying to join Woods as the only back-to-back winners of the PGA Championship in stroke play; Woods did it twice.

"It's always nice to defend, but being in New York, I've got good memories," Koepka said. "It's a fun place to play in front of the fans. They're all energetic, and you come back and you've got good feelings this week and just kind of hopefully you ride that momentum."

No one has more momentum in the big tournaments, not even Woods, who dramatically won his 15th major at Augusta National in April. Koepka was right there challenging Woods for the green jacket.

"I get Tiger was back, so it's a little bit different," Koepka said of where the focus went at the Masters — and always will go with Woods around. "You know, a lot of the attention was going to be there. But some of it was a little bit manufactured on myself. But I think you've got to find a chip or you've got to find something to motivate yourself and give you that extra little something going into a tournament or going into an event, whatever it might be, to really want to push you over that line."

In fact, Koepka has said for a while that getting over that line in majors is easier than winning regular PGA Tour events, of which he has only two. His reasoning reveals a level of confidence that only the elite of their sport own.

Fitzpatrick, Rosen embrace competition for Miami QB job

DAVIE, Fla. (AP)—As Josh Rosen dropped back to pass during practice Tuesday, Ryan Fitzpatrick slapped and pushed him in the back, like an older brother trying to annoy.

It was part of a drill, and those are the only swipes the two Miami Dolphins newcomers are taking at each other as they begin competition for the No. 1 quarterback job.

Fitzpatrick, entering his 15th NFL season, has been through it all before. This year he can become the first player to throw a pass for eight teams.

"I've always had to earn every opportunity that I've received," said Fitzpatrick, 36. "I love the competition. I love being out here and trying to be the best me I can be."

When Fitzpatrick signed an $11 million, two-year deal in March, the job appeared to be his to replace the departed Ryan Tannehill. Then the Dolphins traded two draft picks for Rosen, who had a rocky rookie season in Arizona last year but could become the franchise quarterback Miami has sought since Dan Marino retired 20 years ago.

Fitzpatrick, speaking publicly about the Rosen trade for the first time, said he took the deal in stride.

"I'm here because this was an opportunity where I would have a chance to play," Fitzpatrick said. "It was a job that was open."

It still is, according to first-year coach Brian Flores. He said the best QB in practice will start.

"I expect Ryan to compete for the starting position," Flores said. "I expect him to lead in the quarterback room, and really the entire offense. Obviously he has a wealth of knowledge and a lot of experience. There's competition, but at the same time we're trying to build a team and try to help each other become the best version of ourselves on the field. I expect him to be the leader he is. He has done a good job of that so far."

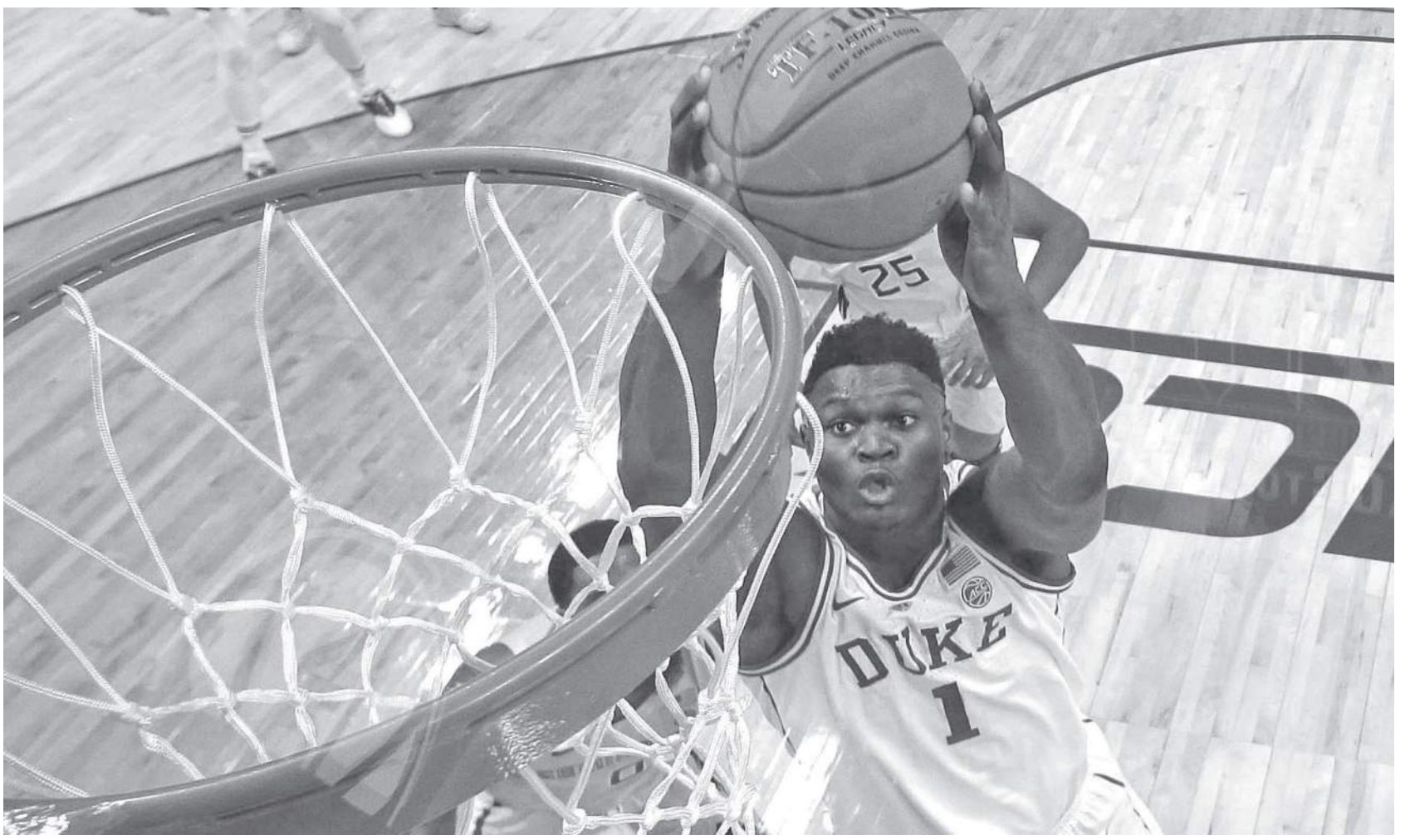
Rosen, like Fitzpatrick, has embraced the battle for the No. 1 job, and said he'll be mindful of the example set by his more experienced teammate.

"He likes to goof around, but he works really hard," Rosen said. "He has been in this league a long time. If I can take just a couple of lessons from him, they'll do me very well in the long run."

The QBs' lockers are side by side, allowing plenty of opportunity for conversation — such as when the cerebral Rosen explained to Fitzpatrick the ecological benefit of the recycled plastic in his cleats.

"Some of the stuff he talks about reminds me of some classmates I had in college," said Fitzpatrick, a Harvard alum. "The topics are sometimes not necessarily things I want to talk about. But he's definitely an interesting guy."

Pelicans win draft lottery, right to pick No. 1



AP

Duke's Zion Williamson (1), the likely No. 1 pick in the NBA draft, goes up to dunk against Florida State during the first half of the NCAA college basketball championship game of the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament in Charlotte, N.C., Saturday, March 16, 2019.

CHICAGO (AP)— Zion Williamson has never been to New Orleans.

That may be changing very soon.

The Pelicans bucked seriously long odds Tuesday night, winning the NBA draft lottery and the right to have the first chance at selecting the former Duke star next month—and potentially pairing him with Anthony Davis, in what would immediately become one of the league's most intriguing frontcourt duos.

"I don't believe the universe makes mistakes," said David Griffin, who is barely a month into his tenure as New Orleans' executive vice president of basketball operations. "I just think we have something special going on."

Griffin doesn't play the lottery, unless the jackpot is one of those billion-dollar-type enormous ones.

Maybe he should. The ping-pong balls seem to bounce his way a lot.

Griffin was with Cleveland when the Cavaliers won the lottery in 2011, 2013 and 2014. And now it's the Pelicans, his new employer, which has struck lottery gold. They defied the odds to do it; the Pelicans entered the lottery with a 6% chance of winning the No. 1 pick for the June 20 draft.

So now, instead of going into a summer where they may have traded Davis — the player New Orleans got when it won the lottery in 2012, the player who was openly disgruntled this season—the Pelicans have a chance at becoming much better, and fast.

"This just jump-starts the process," Griffin said. "It'll be harder for me to mess it up than it would have been before this."

Memphis will choose second, New York third and the Los Angeles Lakers will pick fourth. The Pelicans, Grizzlies and Lakers all moved up to get a top-four spot; New York, Phoenix and Cleveland had the best odds of winning the lottery at 14% each, and none of those clubs even got a top-two pick.

The lottery had a new format this year, one that the league hoped would even the playing field in a number of ways and didn't make all-out tanking a more enticing option to teams looking to maximize their chance at securing the No. 1 pick.

The Knicks, Suns and Cavs didn't have much interest in winning this season, with none winning more than 19 games. The ping-pong balls apparently weren't interested in having them win the lottery, either.

"I don't think you should ever not play to win basketball games," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said. "I don't see where it would help you."

Cleveland will pick fifth, followed by Phoenix, Chicago and Atlanta. Washington has the No. 9 pick, Atlanta goes again at 10 and Minnesota is at No. 11. Charlotte is next up, followed by Miami at 13 and Boston at 14. That pick was conveyed to the Celtics by Sacramento as part of an earlier trade.

The Hawks felt they were big winners, too, after getting two top-10 picks.

"There are always good players," said Hawks guard Kevin Huerter, the No. 19 pick in last year's draft and part of Atlanta's contingent at the lottery. "Every team just has to go out and find them."

UCF center Tacko Fall, the 7-foot-6 draft hopeful, played against Williamson in the second round of the NCAA tournament—a 77-76 Duke victory that went down to the very last moment, a game where Williamson scored 32 points. Fall was asked Tuesday who he would take with the No. 1 pick in this draft, and he did not hesitate for even a second before answering.

"Zion," Fall said. "He's a once-in-a-generation player. I'd seen him on TV a lot, but when you play against this kid, you just see it. He's different."

Murray State's Ja Morant, projected by many as a strong candidate to be chosen No. 2 overall, was among the players in the audience viewing the proceedings.

"I don't have any reaction," Morant said. "I was just excited to be here and be in the position that I'm in and just to see how it all played out. Honestly, I don't know what number or where I'll land. Obviously, whatever team drafts me, I'll be happy to go there and bring it every night."

Williamson was one of three now-former Duke starters at the lottery — R.J. Barrett and Cam Reddish were among the invited players as well.

Barrett and Reddish don't know where they're heading.

Williamson now has a pretty good idea.

Aided by a lucky tie that came from Cavaliers executive Jeff Cohen—the one Cohen wore for all three of Cleveland's lottery wins, and one Griffin insisted he get to use this year—along with an angel pin that belonged to his grandmother and the winning ping-pong ball combination of 7-4-12-13, Griffin is already off to a flying start in New Orleans.

And maybe Davis will be more interested in staying now.

"I don't think it'll play into it hugely," Griffin said. "If he was open-minded to believing that we could build a winner around him, he's more open-minded to it. ... We're going to build something that we hope everyone wants to be part of and I believed very strongly Anthony's going to want to be part of that whether we win this or not. I think when you have elite talent, that tends to attract other truly elite talent."

Curry, Warriors take Western Conference finals opener

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)— Stephen Curry had all kinds of room for a change and capitalized, finding his shooting touch in a hurry to get Golden State on a roll. Portland's defenders were too far back in the paint or a step behind all night.

"Practice shots," Trail Blazers star Damian Lillard said of Curry's wide-open chances.

So far, the Warriors are showing they can keep winning until Kevin Durant gets healthy.

Making it look easy again, Curry knocked down nine 3-pointers on his way to 36 points, leading the two-time defending champions past the Trail Blazers 116-94 on Tuesday night in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals.

"I know what I'm capable of on the floor. The situation calls for me to be a little bit more aggressive and hopefully that'll continue," said Curry, who came in shooting 37.1% on 3s this postseason. "Obviously it's nice to see the ball go in. I didn't shoot the ball well for 4 1/2 games the last series and got off to a good start tonight. I want to maintain that. Every game is different, you've got to re-establish yourself. That's my perspective no matter how I play."

Curry shot 12 for 23 in his fourth 30-point performance this postseason, finding far more open looks than he had in the last round against Houston. The two-time NBA MVP outplayed the Portland duo of Lillard and CJ McCollum, who combined to go 11 for 31 against a strong Golden State defense.

"It's good to see Steph have a game like that at a time that obviously we need him most," Draymond Green said.

Klay Thompson had 26 points, including a late one-handed slam. Green established the energy on both ends early for the well-rested Warriors, finishing with 12 points, 10 rebounds, five assists, three blocks and two steals.

Lillard scored 19 points back home in Oakland, just miles away from where he grew up. He appreciated all the support but wants to stick to basketball.

"That's part of what makes it special, I'm from here," Lillard said. "I could walk home from here if I wanted to, that tells you how close it is."

McCollum had 17 and missed five of his six 3s as the cold-shooting Blazers went just 7 for 28 from long range.

Game 2 is Thursday night, and the Warriors are unlikely to have Durant back from a strained right calf. An update on Durant's status is expected that day once the two-time reigning NBA Finals MVP is re-examined.

"I think we played a terrible game and we still had a chance going into the fourth quarter," McCollum said, "so we need to tighten some things up and look forward to the game on Thursday."

Curry came off screens with authority and matched his postseason career high for 3s, also accomplished in Game 1 of last year's finals against Cleveland. He found his groove far earlier than in the Game 6 clincher at Houston on Friday night, when he scored all 33 of his points in the second half.

Little brother Seth struggled with three points for Portland, which shot 36.1% overall.

"It's not one-and-done. We've got a series, it's one loss," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "We've got to play better, particularly at the offensive end, but we've got to be better at both ends."

Lillard hit a game-winning 3-pointer with 6.3 seconds remaining in overtime Dec. 27 in his last regular-season game at Oracle Arena. He averaged 28.3 points and 6.5 assists in four regular-season games against Golden State this season.

He arrived for Game 1 in a custom Oakland Athletics baseball jersey having averaged 30 points in his nine previous playoff matchups against the Warriors.

Rockies spoil Sale's 17 strikeouts effort

BOSTON (AP)—Red Sox ace Chris Sale struck out a career-high 17 in just seven innings before getting pulled after 108 pitches on a chilly Tuesday night, and the Colorado Rockies rallied against Boston's bullpen to win 5-4 in the 11th.

Sale became the first pitcher in major league history to fan 17 in a start of no more than seven innings. Boston pitchers combined to strike out 24, but the Red Sox had their five-game winning streak stopped.

Mark Reynolds, whose fifth-inning double was the first runner allowed by Sale, drove in the go-ahead run with a two-out single in the 11th off Ryan Brasier (2-2).

Sale struck out the first six batters and fanned eight through three innings. He topped his previous best of 15 strikeouts, which he had done three times. The All-Star lefty had a shutout through six innings. Nolan Arenado's two-run homer in the seventh was one of only three hits managed by the Rockies against Sale.

Mike Dunn (1-0) got the win with one inning of scoreless relief and Wade Davis got his seventh save.

Charlie Blackmon also homered for the Rockies. Michael Chavis, J.D. Martinez and Rafael Devers homered for Boston.

Kyle Freeland got the start for Colorado on his 26th birthday and went six innings, allowing three runs on five hits, striking out seven and walking three.

Colorado Rockies starting pitcher Kyle Freeland delivers against the Boston Red Sox during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at Fenway Park in Boston. AP

Blue Jays 7, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered twice to become the third-youngest player to hit his first two major league homers in the same game in Toronto's victory over the Giants.

Guerrero, who finished with three hits and four RBIs, became the youngest in franchise history to go deep as the Blue Jays won the opener of a six-game trip after losing five of six on a homestand in which they totaled eight runs.

Trent Thornton (1-4) pitched three-hit ball into the sixth inning for his first major league win. He struck out seven and overcame five walks.

The 20-year-old Guerrero homered in the first inning against Giants opener Nick Vincent (0-2). He added an even more impressive blast in the sixth off Reyes Moronta, a three-run drive estimated at 451 feet.

Twins 4, Angels 3

In Minneapolis, Mitch Garver hit a two-run homer and tagged out Shohei Ohtani trying to score the tying run in the eighth inning before leaving with an injury, helping Minnesota hold off Los Angeles.

Garver hit his ninth homer in the third to give Minnesota a three-run lead behind Kyle Gibson (4-1). Byron Buxton added an RBI double the next inning, and five relievers combined for 3 1/3 scoreless innings, with Blake Parker getting his seventh save in seven chances.

Ohtani had three hits, including an RBI single as part of a three-run sixth, but he was thrown out at third base in the sixth and at home in the eighth after Brian Goodwin's single to center.

Mariners 4, Athletics 3

In Seattle, Daniel Vogelbach, Tim Beckham and Mitch Haniger homered and Roenis Elias pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the Mariners' win over Oakland.

Haniger's deep two-run shot into the second deck in left field in the fifth inning broke a 2-2 tie, and Elias stopped a bases-loaded threat with two outs in the seventh with a strikeout, as the Mariners sent the A's to their third straight loss, and fourth in six games.

Mike Leake (3-4) gave up five hits and struck out six. He was chased after 6 2/3 innings when Oakland cut it to 4-3 on an RBI single by Robbie Grossman in the seventh inning.

Dodgers 6, Padres 3

In Los Angeles, Joc Pederson and Cody Bellinger hit two-run homers, Clayton Kershaw threw seven solid innings and the Dodgers beat San Diego in the opener of a two-game series.

Pederson and Bellinger homered in the third inning against starter Chris Paddack (3-2) and helped the Dodgers get their third win in four meetings against their NL West rivals.

Kershaw (3-0) allowed three runs and five hits. The left-hander struck out five as he recorded his third victory in his last four starts. Kenley Jansen worked the ninth for his 13th save.

Cardinals 14, Braves 3

In Atlanta, St. Louis hit four home runs, including three-run shots by Marcell Ozuna, Yadier Molina and Kolten Wong, and beat struggling right-hander Mike Foltynewicz and the Braves.

Jack Flaherty (4-3) did not allow a hit through four innings. St. Louis led 11-0 before Flaherty gave up three runs and three hits in the fifth.

The 2019 struggles for Foltynewicz (0-3) continued. He gave up eight runs, matching his career high, while lasting only 4 2/3 innings.

Mets 6, Nationals 2

In Washington, Wilson Ramos hit a first-inning grand slam after Washington failed to complete what should have been a routine double play, Noah Syndergaard took a no-hitter into the sixth, and New York beat the slumping Nationals.

The Mets have won three games in a row. The Nationals lost for the 11th time in 15 games.

Syndergaard (3-3) allowed two runs and four hits in eight innings. The first hit he allowed was a single to right by Wilmer Difo to open the sixth, and Victor Robles followed with a homer off a 98 mph fastball.

Astros 11, Tigers 4

In Detroit, Carlos Correa started another Houston onslaught with a three-run homer in the first inning, and the Astros routed the Tigers, extending their winning streak to seven games.

The Astros, who have won 10 of 11, scored in each of the first six innings against a depleted Detroit pitching staff. George Springer hit an inside-the-park homer in the fifth, and Aledmys Diaz went deep in the third for Houston.

Wade Miley (4-2) allowed four runs in six innings for the Astros. Houston led 7-0 after its half of the third.

Ronny Rodriguez homered for Detroit. Ryan Carpenter (0-2) made his second start of the season and allowed seven earned runs in four innings.

Rays 4, Marlins 0

In Miami, Charlie Morton pitched six strong innings and Avisail Garcia homered and drove in three runs in Tampa Bay's win over the Marlins.

Morton (4-0) gave up three hits and struck out five while throwing 82 pitches before he was pulled for a pinch hitter in the top of the seventh inning.

Garcia had a solo homer and two RBI singles for the Rays in the opener of the two-game series against their cross-state interleague rivals. Garcia finished the scoring with an infield single with the bases loaded in the ninth.

Miami starter Caleb Smith (3-1) didn't last past the sixth inning for the first time since his opening start on April 1.

Brewers 6, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Brandon Woodruff threw one-hit ball for six innings, Yasmani Grandal and Ryan Braun homered and Milwaukee topped the Phillies.

The Phillies survived a scare when Bryce Harper made a sliding catch on a foul ball to right field and banged his left knee into the wall in the sixth. Harper came up limping but remained in the game and made an almost identical catch to end the inning. He received a standing ovation only to get booed after striking out again in the eighth.

Cubs 3, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Kyle Hendricks had three hits, including a two-run double, and pitched into the ninth inning as the Cubs beat Cincinnati.

The Cubs are 10-2 in May, their best start to the month since 1977. Chicago has won 22 of 28 games for the NL's best record at 25-14.

Hendricks (3-4) gave up a pair of singles and Joey Votto's homer in the fourth inning, but those were Cincinnati's only hits. He left after walking Nick Senzel to open the ninth. Steve Cishek got the last two outs for his third save in four chances.

Indians 9, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Jordan Luplow hit two of Cleveland's five homers and Carlos Carrasco cruised through seven innings in a rout of the White Soxl

Roberto Pérez, Jake Bauers and José Ramirez also went deep as the light-hitting Indians muscled up against Manny Bañuelos and Josh Osich to end Chicago's three-game winning streak.

The 25-year-old Luplow has hit all four of his homers this season against Chicago and three off Bañuelos.

Pirates 6, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Josh Bell homered twice and Joe Musgrove allowed one hit through seven strong innings as Pittsburgh Pirates beat Arizona.

Phoenix native Cole Tucker hit a two-run homer in the top of the eighth inning to cap off the victory.

The Pirates snapped a nine-game losing streak to the Diamondbacks that dated to last season. Pittsburgh has won four of its last five.

Royals 11, Ranges 5

In Kansas City, Hunter Dozier drove in three runs, top prospect Nicky Lopez had an RBI single in his big league debut, and Kansas City routed Texas.

Alex Gordon and Jorge Soler also drove in two runs apiece for the Royals, who scored nine times in the first two innings while quickly knocking Rangers starter Shelby Miller from the game.

Danny Duffy (2-1) was only marginally better for Kansas City, using 107 pitches just to survive five innings. He allowed four runs, seven hits and a walk while striking out seven.

Back-to-back victories for Comets

Serena withdraws from Rome with injured knee

ROME (AP)—Serena Williams withdrew from the Italian Open on Tuesday ahead of her second-round match against sister Venus because of a previously injured left knee.

Tournament organizers made the announcement a day after Serena opened her clay-court season with a straight-sets win over Swedish qualifier Rebecca Peterson.

"I must withdraw from the Italian Open due to pain in my left knee," Serena said, according to the WTA website. "I will miss the fans and competition at one of my favorite tournaments. I'll be concentrating on rehab and look forward to seeing you all at the French Open and next year in Rome."

The next tournament on Serena's schedule is Roland Garros, which starts in less than two weeks.

It's the third straight event that the 37-year-old Serena has exited from due to physical problems.

She retired due to a viral illness during her third-round match against Garbine Muguruza in Indian Wells, California; and withdrew with the left knee injury before her third-round match at the Miami Open in March.

As a result of this latest withdrawal, Venus advances into the third round via a walkover.

Federer seeks more clay matches

At 37 and with 20 Grand Slam titles, Roger Federer still gets excited about playing tennis.

That's why he added this week's Italian Open to his schedule.

"I was in the mood to play," Federer said Tuesday after a practice session on the Foro Italico's Campo Centrale. "Would I rather practice or play matches? ... There would be excitement, more excitement than me coming to a practice court in Switzerland.

"Honestly, I love to play matches. Regardless of what happens here, I just think it's good for me to play matches at this stage," Federer added.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Comets were on target last weekend after getting two wins in the Majors division of the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball.

The Comets first routed the NSA Braves, 17-3, last Saturday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield and then coasted past the Twins last Sunday, 20-4, to improve their record to 4-3, tying the Falcons in third spot in the team standings. The Kagman Little Legals (6-2) still lead the division, while McDonald's (4-11) is ranked second and the Braves (1-6) and Twins (0-6) are at the bottom two.

Jayquin Lizama pitched for the Comets in their game against the Braves, giving up only four hits and two earned runs. With Lizama on the mound, the Braves was held to one run after two innings before a two-run double from Marino Santos in the third inning gave the losing squad their second and third run. Lizama then struck out the Braves' first three batters at the top of the fourth, moving the Comets closer to an early win.

The Comets went on to finish off the Braves at the bottom of the fourth after scoring eight runs to take the victory via 10-run mercy rule. James Blas led the Comets' strong finish after hitting a three-run single, while Joshua Macaranas had a two-run single, Lizama blasted an RBI double, and Javen Camacho made an RBI single.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Braves, left, and Comets catchers warm-up during their first round meeting in the Majors division of the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

The Comets recorded the easy victory despite making only one run in the first inning. The winning team slowly pulled away after adding eight runs in the second and third inning and completed the blowout in the fourth.

After crushing the Braves, the Comets picked up where they left off, whipping the Twins in the second game last Sunday.

This time, the Braves got off to a strong start, bagging nine runs at the top of the first inning to set the tone in the game. The Twins countered with only three runs at the bottom, but that was it for the winless squad, while the Braves widened the gap after drilling 11 runs to sweep their two matches over the weekend.

CAROL

From Page 28

5 Maria Tkacheva and No. 4 Oksama Selekhmeteva of Russia, No. 3 Sada Nahimana of Burundi, No. 5 Mylene Halemai of France, No. 10 Romana Cisovska of Slovakia, and No. 14 Pia Lovric of Slovenia.

Meanwhile, Lee also played in the second round of the doubles event of the Grade 1 tournament, but she and Puerto Rico's Lauren Anzalotta Kynoch were beaten by Ukraine's Liubov Kostenko and Russia's Taisya Pachkaleva, 6-2, 6-2.

AGAPE

From Page 28

ers' charge with his 22 points, while Tang and Bao chipped in 12 and 10 markers, respectively. McDonald paced SCS with his 11 points and was the lone player on his team to finish in double figures.

In the second semis game, the Knights drew crucial baskets from Jacob Wesley and Gabby San Nicolas to escape past the Eagles.

With GCA holding on to a 25-24 lead, with a little over a minute left in the close game, Wesley banked in a 15-foot jumper to put Mt. Carmel on top. Wesley's deuce was his lone field goal in the game, but it came at the perfect time.

Then at the 30-second mark, Gabby San Nicolas zipped through GCA's scrambling defense and drilled a fastbreak layup to seal the deal.

San Nicolas, Leo Naraja, and Derek Sasamoto teamed up for the Knights' balance attack with the former scoring 9 points. Naraja and Sasamoto contributed 7 markers apiece, while Ryan Daproza led GCA with his 12.

Meanwhile, GCA and Agape will duel for the girls championship trophy today at the Koblerville Gymnasium, starting at 3:30pm.

First Game

Agape 54—Zheng 22, Tang 12, Bao 10, Miao 4, Li 2, Liang 2, Qiu 2.

SCS 17—McDonald 11, Kang 3, Aleksenko 2, Timmons 1.

Scoring by quarters: 6-8, 14-14, 30-16, 54-17

Second Game

MCS 28—San Nicolas 9, Naraja 7, Sasamoto 7, Borja 3, Wesley 2.

GCA 25—Daproza 12, Lerio 6, Justin Du 3, Jason Du 2, Castro 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-4, 17-10, 17-19, 28-25

HOPWOOD

From Page 28

seconds), and 400m (1:01.88) runs. The school dominated the podium in the 400m run with Kristian David (1:04.36) and A.J. Ruben (1:04.70) placing second and third, respectively. Davis was also the runner-up in the 200m run (26.32 seconds) and Travis Kaipat (26.54 seconds) gave Hopwood another 1-2-3 finish. The Hilitais had the same results in the 100m run with M.J. David (12.96 seconds) in second place and Kaipat (13.17 seconds) in third.

In the field events, Hopwood won three out of five with Taisei Desebel prevailing in the long jump (5.10 meters), shot put (10.66m), and javelin (36.36m). Tinian's Hombre Hocog and Agape's Silas Xu topped the two other events with the former ruling the high jump (1.45m) and the latter lording it over in the discus throw (28.01m).

In other results, Hopwood's Jim Maniago took the gold medal in the 3,000m run after checking in at 12:09.59, while Saipan Community School's Charlie McDonald led in the 1,500m run (5:19.19), and Agape's Caleb Dai won the 800m run (2:32.44).

Meanwhile, Hopwood banked on its domination in the field events to earn 139 points and clinch the overall championship in the girls U14 age group. Agape placed second after tallying 117 points, while Saipan International School (49), Tanapag Middle School (46), and FMS (29) completed the rankings.

Angel Roligat handed Hopwood four of the five gold medals at stake in the field events after winning the high jump (1.20m), shot put (7.41m), discus throw (18.40m), and javelin (18.86m). Agape's Jenny Lin foiled Roligat's bid for a sweep after topping the long jump event (3.64m), which the Lady Torchbearers dominated as Linxi Cai (3.38m) and Phoebe Cheng (3.34m) ended up at second and third place respectively.

Agape also won the gold medal in the 800m and 3,000m runs after Emma Pang clocked in at 2:58.28 and 13:51.07, while SIS' Helen Kim reigned supreme in the 400m (1:12.54) and 1,500m race (6:12.51). In the sprints events, Tanapag's Filomenaleonisa Iakopo ruled the 200m run (28.85 seconds), while Dandan Middle School's Casey Cruz bagged the gold in the 100m race (13.43 seconds).

In the relays, Hopwood swept the boys 4x100m and 4x400m and also prevailed in the mixed event. In the girls division, Tanapag got the gold in the 4x100m, while Agape led the podium finishers in the 4x400m.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Middle school students race in the 100m run during the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

PGA a new major challenge for Woods

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Pelicans win draft lottery, right to pick No. 1

PAGE 25

Agape, MCS set finals duel

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Agape Christian School's Eason Tang pulls up for a shot against two Saipan Community School defenders during their semis game in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Agape Christian School and Mt. Carmel School earned contrasting wins to set up their title showdown in the boys division of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Middle School Basketball League.

No. 1 seed Agape overcame a sluggish start to breeze past No. 5 Saipan Community School, 54-17, and get the first finals berth yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium. Mt. Carmel, on the other hand, survived a late-game scare from Grace Christian Academy in the other semis match, 28-25, to clinch the other ticket to the championship game, which will be played tomorrow at 3:30pm.

With the score knotted up at the break, 14-14, the Torchbearers poured it on in the second half to bury the Tsunamis. David Zheng and Eason Tang caught fire when the game resumed, as they combined for 28 of Agape's 40 points in the second half with the former making 16 and the latter adding 12.

Tang hit two consecutive layups to turn things around for Agape, which still fell behind early in the third quarter after Charlie McDonald nailed his two free throws, 14-16.

After seizing the lead off Tang's back-to-back baskets, the Torchbearers shifted into overdrive and went on a 12-0 scoring run to gain a 30-16 advantage, heading into the last period.

Agape then snuffed out any hopes that SCS had for a comeback with a 24-point output in the fourth quarter. Zheng waxed hot from deep, as the Torchbearers captain connected on three treys and a 15-footer for 11 points in that final period alone. Tang and Bobby Bao chipped in with 4 points apiece, while Jordan Miao and Steve Qiu each scored a field goal. While Agape was firing on all cylinders, the Tsunamis went ice-cold, as McDonald's free throw was the team's only basket in the fourth canto.

Before collapsing in the second half, SCS kept things competitive as it led after the first period, 8-6. McDonald logged 4 points, Miles Borja knocked in a free throw, and Daniel Kang swished a trey to give their team the early lead.

However, Agape managed to even out the count at halftime behind Zheng's 4 points and Anonio Li and Tony Liang's second-chance buckets in the second period. Then after the break, the Torchbearers buckled down to work to torch SCS.

Zheng led the Torchbear-

See AGAPE on Page 27

Hopwood sweep in All Schools meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Hopwood Middle School took both the girls and boys U14 overall titles in the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships held over the weekend at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The Hilitais were the runaway winner in the boys division after several first place finishes in running and field events and combining for 176 points. Agape Christian School was at distant second with 109 points, while Dandan Middle School (41 points) came in at third. Tinian Junior Senior High School (40) and Francisco M. Sablan Middle School (21) rounded out the Top 5.

Hopwood swept the top honors in the sprints with Craig Padayao ruling the 100m (12.75 seconds), 200m (25.51

See HOPWOOD on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Hopwood Junior High School student competes in the long jump event during the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Carol stuns seeded foe in Italy

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Junior player Carol Lee eased her way to the third round of the singles play of the Torneo Internazionale "Città Di Santa Croce" Mauro Sabatini after earning an upset win yesterday in Italy.

The CNMI bet challenged No. 11 seed Antonia Samudio of Colombia and cruised to a straight set victory to march into the Round of 16. Lee hammered Samudio in the first set, 6-0, and completed the sweep with a 6-2 triumph in the second.

After stunning Samudio, next up for the 17-year-old Lee is Russia's Diana Shnaider, who also stole the thunder from her seeded opponent to make it to the third round. The Russian edged-No. 8 Mintegi Del Olmo of Spain in the first set, 7-5, before getting an easier victory in the second, 6-2.

Lee and Shnaider were two of the six unseeded players to reach the Round of 16 of the tournament that is being played at the Tennis Club Santa Croce Via Poggio Adorno in Santa Croce Sull'Arno, Tuscany. Others on the list were Great Britain's Amami Banks, Russia's Polina Kudermetova, Czech Republic's Linda Koskova, Educador's Mell Elizabeth Reasco Gonzales, and Chloe Beck of the U.S.

The No. 1 rank Shoyun Park and No. 2 Helena Pellicano of Malta are still in contention along with their fellow seeded players, No. 16 Melania Delai of Italy, No.

See CAROL on Page 27

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee is still in Italy and in contention for the singles title in the Torneo Internazionale "Città Di Santa Croce" Mauro Sabatini in Tuscany.